



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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***Ilse Bing: Queen of the Leica* opens at the Art Gallery,  
University of Saint Joseph on April 4, 2013**



***Self-Portrait with Leica, 1931. ©Estate of Ilse Bing.***

**WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – The Art Gallery at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will host an opening reception for *Ilse Bing: Queen of the Leica* on Thursday, April 4, 2013 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** The exhibition will be on view through Sunday, June 9. The Art Gallery is located in The Bruyette Athenaeum on USJ's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. **This event is free of charge and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Art Gallery at 860.231.5399 or visit [www.usj.edu/artgallery](http://www.usj.edu/artgallery).

*Ilse Bing: Queen of the Leica* celebrates the great woman photographer Ilse Bing (1899 - 1998) in an exhibition composed entirely of her sumptuous and rare vintage prints. Born in Frankfurt, Germany, Bing studied math and art history before picking up a camera, decamping to Paris, and launching a photographic career that would last three decades. "The instant I set foot in Paris, I knew I was in the atmosphere that suited me," she wrote. "I breathed the very air of Paris and felt ready to flourish."

Even before Henri Cartier-Bresson adopted it, Bing's camera of choice for its portability, speed, and ability to take 36 exposures was the miniature Leica. She was soon nicknamed the "Queen of the Leica." Bing immersed herself in Paris's cultural milieu, interacting with painters like Pavel Tchelitchev as well as fashionistas Elsa Schiaparelli and Carmel Snow, who hired her to shoot for *Harper's Bazaar*.

This exhibition perfectly captures the mood of 1930s Paris and is highlighted by a unique portfolio documenting the Can-Can dancers at the notorious Moulin Rouge, as well as Bing's iconic *Self-Portrait with Leica*, 1931. Also featured is her evocative New York City work taken in 1936 during a trip to meet the gallerist Julien Levy.

The Art Gallery, University of Saint Joseph is the first venue for this exhibition, which was organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions. All works are from the collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg.

**The Art Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free of charge.**

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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