

WSJ. MAGAZINE | WHAT'S NEWS

A New Show in New York Will Trace a Glamorous Photographer Couple's Legacy

Leslie Gill and Frances McLaughlin-Gill had a knack for turning American socialites and models into icons of postwar chic



DOUBLE EXPOSURE | An untitled 1940s photograph by Frances McLaughlin-Gill. PHOTO: FRANCES MCLAUGHLIN-GILL, UNTITLED, 1940S, COPYRIGHT LESLIE GILL, COURTESY OF HOWARD GREENBERG GALLERY

By Carol Kino

May 11, 2017 9:00 a.m. ET

FOR MIDCENTURY READERS of American style magazines, the work of photographer couple Leslie Gill and Frances McLaughlin-Gill would have been a familiar sight. Gill's precisely shot configurations of food, objects and people often filled the pages of *Harper's Bazaar* and others. McLaughlin-Gill, 11 years his junior, was *Vogue's* first contracted female photographer, with a knack for turning American socialites and models like Gloria Vanderbilt and Sunny Harnett into icons of postwar chic. Now their moment has returned in *Lives & Still Lives: Leslie Gill, Frances McLaughlin-Gill, and Their Circle*, at New York's Howard Greenberg Gallery through July 7.

The exhibition was organized by the independent curator and former *New Yorker* visuals editor Elisabeth Biondi, who discovered the work through the couple's daughter, Leslie Gill. It comprises 58 photographs, shot between the 1920s and 1960s, by the Gills and their friends, including Man Ray, Irving Penn and Louise Dahl-Wolfe. The images recall an era when the couple were "giants of the style world," Biondi says. Though their subject matter often differed, she notes, "they influenced each other on an aesthetic level." howardgreenberg.com.



Leslie Gill's 1950 Composition With Watermelon. PHOTO: LESLIE GILL, COMPOSITION WITH WATERMELON,1950, COPYRIGHT LESLIE GILL, COURTESY OF HOWARD GREENBERG GALLERY

-
-
-
-
-