

DISFARMER: THE VINTAGE PRINTS



Disfarmer: The Vintage Prints is the first museum exhibition presenting the vintage photographs of Mike Disfarmer (1884-1959), one of America's greatest portraitists. The debut of Disfarmer's original vintage photographs was the culmination of an unprecedented two-year historical reclamation project in which a dedicated team of researchers scoured family albums in every home along every road in Cleburne County, Arkansas. More information about this endeavor may be found on the website of the Disfarmer Project, www.disfarmer.org

A true American eccentric, Disfarmer was born Mike Meyer in 1884. He legally changed his name to Disfarmer to disassociate himself from the farming community in which he plied his trade and from his own kinfolk—claiming that a tornado had accidentally blown him onto the Meyer family farm as a baby. Despite his quirks, as the resident studio photographer in tiny Heber Springs, Arkansas, Disfarmer captured the faces of the American heartland at a defining period in history, as they struggled through the Depression and World War II.

Disfarmer is often compared to Walker Evans for his powerfully rendered Depression-era Southern subjects, and to August Sander for his rendering of "people without masks." In turn, Richard Avedon acknowledged Disfarmer's influence when he created *In the American West*.

In his biography, Rick Woodward writes, "Disfarmer is not cruel, patronizing or sentimental about [his subjects'] plight. But neither is he a friend or pastor. He is like a crime scene photographer, determined to record the details because the details are what ultimately will exonerate a person. The reality of their condition—the hats, creases in their jeans and dresses, lines in faces and hands, bad posture, dangling cigarettes and arms, staring eyes—can be preserved in a photograph and serve as existential evidence."

art2art is proud to circulate this important exhibition in association with the Disfarmer Project. The photographs are selected from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg.



EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS:

Number of photographs: 55
Frame sizes: 14 x 11 inches
Rental fee: \$5500 for 8 weeks
Additional weeks may be booked for an extra 10% per week.