



George Platt Lynes: Portraits from the Kinsey Institute

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George Platt Lynes made his living as a New York fashion and portrait photographer, but a major portion of his career was dedicated to photographing nude men, from the early 1930s until his untimely death in 1955. Through his inventive use of light, pose, and carefully staged studio settings, Lynes was able to capture a subject's physical attributes as well as his psychological presence. Lynes did not exhibit the male nudes publicly, but he did publish several photographs in the Swiss homosexual magazine *Der Kries* in the early 1950s. Today, he is recognized as one of the masters of 20th century photography. His influence is evident in the photographs of artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe and Herb Ritts. Dr. Alfred Kinsey met George Platt Lynes during a research trip to New York in 1949. Over the next six years, he acquired nearly 600 prints and more than 2300 negatives from the artist, creating one of the largest collections of Lynes' photographic work. This valuable resource, which includes nudes, portraits, fashion, and ballet images, is made available to scholars, artists, writers, and publishers. Photographs from the Lynes collection are frequently featured in books and exhibitions.

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