



Palm Springs
Art Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Scott Slaven

(323) 697-2971

sslaven@psmuseum.org

**PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES EXHIBITION OF
RECENTLY REDISCOVERED PALM SPRINGS-BASED ARTIST KALI**

Experimental photographer's work unseen for decades

PALM SPRINGS, CA (July 20, 2023) Palm Springs Art Museum announces a new exhibition that celebrates an unconventional innovator in photography whose work was only recently discovered after being stashed away for decades. The exhibition [Kali, Artographer, 1932-2019](#) opens on November 19, 2023 and will run until April 24, 2024.

The story behind **Kali** is as interesting as her work. In 1962, Long Island housewife **Joan Archibald** upended her life by fleeing to the warm and creative climes of Southern California where she reinvented herself as a photographer and took the name "Kali" after a Hindu goddess. Kali soon moved to Palm Springs and spent the following decades experimenting with photography—while becoming increasingly withdrawn and eccentric. It was only after her death in 2019 when a trove of images were discovered by her daughter Susan that Kali became recognized as a significant innovator in alternative photography.

Kali developed approaches that used the classic tools of analog photography, but she manipulated her images in strikingly original ways suggestive of the psychedelic aesthetics of the time. Shooting on black-and-white film, she placed the prints in her swimming pool, physically agitating them as she applied dyes, paints, spray developer, and even organic material. After achieving the final mix of colors and textures, she left the prints to dry in the sun—creating truly one-of-a-kind images.

"Kali's work embodies a unique style that somehow combines Southern California optimism with a dark intensity that's very powerful," says **Adam Lerner**, JoAnn McGrath Executive Director/CEO of Palm Springs Art Museum. "We're thrilled to present Kali's work since so much of it was made here in Palm Springs and I believe will be particularly meaningful to our community."

The works on view in this exhibition, including prints and Polaroids, display Kali's fascination with self-portraiture as well as her use of friends and family as models. Later images reveal her almost obsessive interest in UFOs and the paranormal.

This exhibition, previously titled *LA Woman: Kali, Artographer*, was organized by the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH.

The exhibition was curated by Nannette Maciejeunes and Len Prince. Museum Tour Management by the Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA. Sponsorship support provided by Carol Adney.

Images and caption sheet for *Kali, Artographer, 1932-2019* available [here](#).

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum exhibitions, programs, and events, please visit psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800.

###

About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley. The flagship building, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. Five blocks away, the Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design.