



Frances Wilson, c. 1930

ATHENS ON THE FRASER: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF H.G. COX

On view from June 7 to August 3

Curated by Bill Jeffries

Horace Gordon (H.G.) Cox was locally famous in the 1930s, but has been forgotten even though he is arguably the best Pictorialist photographer to ever live in Vancouver. His photographs were discovered in a suburban basement three years ago. A selection of 76 of Cox's beautiful, toned vintage prints will be seen by the B.C. public for the first time since his 1938 show at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Cox was born in Kidderminster England in 1885 and attended the Kidderminster School of Art in the years before immigrating to Canada in 1908. In 1911 he moved to New Westminster, taking up a post with the engineering branch of the B.C. Electric Railway Company. He was rejected for military service in the First World War on medical grounds. From 1913 to 1941 he worked in the Public Works Department of the Provincial Government based out of New Westminster.

Cox's earliest artistic photographs date from 1924. Within a few years he was an active member of the international pictorialist salon movement, showing his pictures in the 1926 to 1940 period at exhibitions on four continents, from New York to Los Angeles, From London to Lucknow, India, and in France, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Cox was part of the network of salons and camera clubs that flourished on the West Coast from the 1920 to 1940, establishing friendships with photographers in Seattle and Portland. Interestingly, one of his fellow jurors for a photo exhibition in Victoria in the mid-1940s was Jack Shadbolt. These images provide a rare glimpse into 20s & 30s in Vancouver and New Westminster.

Panel Discussion: Thursday, June 19th at 7:30 pm

A discussion on the photography of H.G. Cox and Pictorialism in the Pacific Northwest with Sylvia Grace Borda, David Martin and Bill Jeffries.

Media contact: Diane Evans, 604-986-1351, devans@presentationhousegall.com

Interviews with the curator and artists can be arranged and press photographs are available.

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Sunday: 12 – 5 pm, Thursdays: 12 – 9 pm