

CONTACT:

Book - Rose Marie Morse
212-861-2397
rmorse@morse-partners.com

UK and DVD-ROM – Niki Strange/Jason Ryan
Cognitive Applications
00 44 1273 821 600
nikis@cogapp.com /; jasonr@cogapp.com

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JOSEPH CORNELL: SHADOWPLAY...ETERNIDAY

*With essays by Lynda Roscoe Hartigan, Richard Vine, and Robert Lehrman
and commentary by Walter Hopps*

**CENTENNIAL OF EXTRAORDINARY ARTIST'S BIRTH CELEBRATED
IN SPLENDIDLY ILLUSTRATED BOOK;
INTERACTIVE COMPANION DVD INVITES VIEWERS 'INSIDE THE BOX'**

In both his art and his life, Joseph Cornell created the sublime from the ordinary. Living with his mother in a working-class section of Queens, while toiling at a series of low-level jobs, Cornell actively pursued and gained a remarkable wealth of knowledge, “collectanea” and imagery from the streets of New York which he used in his work. As his career evolved, he became a celebrated figure visited by famous artists, prima ballerinas and distinguished poets. He created a unique and fascinating body of art, which took the everyday and conjured from it works of subtle imagery and stunning beauty.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Cornell's birth, The Smithsonian Institution and the Voyager Foundation joined together to present **Joseph Cornell: Shadowplay...Eterniday**, a sumptuous and scholarly tribute to this unique American artist. In addition to magnificent illustrations and close-ups of over seventy-five works, **Shadowplay...Eterniday** offers expert insights and essays from **Lynda Roscoe Hartigan**, former director of the Joseph Cornell Study Center, **Richard Vine**, managing editor of *Art in America*, and **Robert Lehrman**, a leading collector of Cornell's work. In addition, commentary is provided by legendary curator Walter Hopps who befriended Cornell and championed his work.

Although Cornell lacked formal art training, he drew inspiration from European Surrealism and crafted a work that was uniquely American. He has intrigued and influenced subsequent generations of Pop, Minimalist, and post-Modern artists.

Cornell focused an immense and wide-ranging knowledge—what **Hartigan** terms “vast topography”—into his art. He worked his magic with found objects, juxtaposing them in new ways to produce his “métaphysique d'éphémère,” which **Hopps** sums up as “very big ideas, achieved with very simple means.” One of those ideas was “eterniday,” or the fusion of the timeless and the daily. That notion grew out of Cornell's religious beliefs as a devout Christian Scientist, a topic that **Vine** explores in his intriguing essay.

Cornell's collages and series of boxes contain texture, sound, motion, and imagery, creating worlds unto themselves that are at once intimate and marvelously grand.

Shadowplay...Eterniday's companion DVD-ROM, *The Magical Worlds of Joseph Cornell*, lets us investigate those realms as if the boxes were in our hands, "exploring the endless mysteries embedded in the works," as **Lehrman** puts it. The state-of-the-art disk offers intimate, multidimensional views of Cornell's works, along with interviews with scholars and friends of Cornell's, the artist's own films, never before seen source materials, and more.

Shadowplay...Eterniday and its extraordinary accompanying DVD, offers the reader/viewer a more comprehensive experience of the artist's work than has ever been possible.

About the Contributors

The Book

Lynda Roscoe Hartigan is chief curator of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and a founding curator of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Joseph Cornell Study Center. An internationally recognized authority on Cornell, she is currently organizing a retrospective of his work for the Smithsonian that will tour nationally in 2006.

Walter Hopps is the founding director and the 20th century curator at the Menil Collection, he is also an adjunct senior curator at the Guggenheim Museum. He served as director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and as curator of 20th century art at the Smithsonian Institution's National Collection of Fine Arts.

Richard Vine is the managing editor of *Art in America*, a position he has held since 1988. He writes frequently on contemporary art, architecture, and design. He was previously editor-in-chief of the *Chicago Review* and *Dialogue: An Art Journal*, and he has written on subjects ranging from Jean Baudrillard to the Bellagio's art collection.

Robert Lehrman is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. As one of the nation's leading collectors of contemporary art, he has been named one of the "Top 100 Collectors" by *ARTNews* and *Art & Antiques*. His collection of works by Joseph Cornell is among the most comprehensive in the world.

The DVD-ROM: Principal Biographies

Rory Matthews, Concept, Designer, Art Director and Project Lead

Rory Matthews designed and art directed "The Magical Worlds of Joseph Cornell" working with the Voyager Foundation and a production team at Cognitive Applications led by Jason Ryan.

Rory is a designer and design consultant, specializing in interactive media for museums, art galleries and other collections. Based in Brighton, England, Rory works internationally with organizations including the British Royal Collection and the J Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles. Earlier projects with Cognitive Applications include the design of major public installations for the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; The National Portrait Gallery, London; the Science Museum, London, and Manchester United Football Club.

Jason Ryan, Concept, Production and Technical Lead

Jason Ryan worked closely with Rory and the Voyager Foundation on "The Magical Worlds of Joseph Cornell", leading the technical and production work on the project.

Jason is Cognitive Applications' production director. He has an academic background in research, conservation and archaeology and has taught at the Royal College of Art. He has been involved with new media for eight years now and has contributed to over 35 digital projects in the fields of art, science, education, music and film. His projects for Cognitive Applications include delivering interactive projects for the Science Museum, London, National Maritime Museum, London, Sheffield Galleries and Museums and The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Joseph Cornell Shadowplay ... Eterniday

By Lynda Roscoe Hartigan, Walter Hopps, Richard Vine, Robert Lehrman

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