ANTON BRUEHL
The first Australian photographer to make it big in the Big Apple
18 February–15 April 2012 at QUT Art Museum

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Art Museum, Brisbane, will present a National Gallery of Australia retrospective of the photographs of Anton Bruehl – an Australian-born photographer whose work was once seen by millions but is now largely forgotten – from 18 February.

From his studio in New York, Anton Bruehl (1900-1982) created inventive and perfectly realised colour photographs for magazines such as Vogue and Vanity Fair.

*In the spotlight: Anton Bruehl photographs 1920s-1950s* presents an overview of his work, from advertising to images of stars of the stage and screen, to his personal photography in the classic documentary tradition.

Bruehl was a leader in the new field of colour photography and remained at its forefront until his retirement in 1966. He was best known for his elaborately staged, densely coloured advertisements and theatrical tableaux, which American photographer Ansel Adams described as being 'entirely contrived, and yet absolutely sincere'.

The exhibition is drawn from over 100 black-and-white and colour photographs, magazine illustration sheets and ephemera, gifted by Bruehl’s son Anton Bruehl Jr. to the National Gallery of Australia. The donation followed an earlier visit by Bruehl Jr., who arrived that the National Gallery and enquired whether anyone knew of his father.

“Although my father never returned to Australia, he always had affection for his homeland. It felt right that my collection of his photographs should be held at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. I am thrilled that the National Gallery is presenting this exhibition and with the assistance of the Australian government is touring this around the country,” he said.

Bruehl was born in the rural town of Naracoorte, South Australia, in 1900. He trained and then worked as an electrical engineer in Melbourne until 1919, when he and his brother Martin immigrated to New York to work for Western Electric Co.

Bruehl changed course after four years at the company, to pursue his passion for photography, studying and later teaching at the renowned Clarence H. White School of Photography, where he explored the creative possibilities of commercial photography. In 1926 he opened up his own photography studio and a year later was later joined by his brother Martin.

**OPENING Friday 17 February, 6.00pm for 6.30pm with special guest Eugene Gilfedder**
**CURATOR’S FLOOR TALK Saturday 18 February, 12.00pm**

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Senior Marketing Officer Alison Clifford on (07) 3138 3248 or a.clifford@qut.edu.au

Further information including image sheet overleaf
In the spotlight: Anton Bruehl photographs 1920s-1950s
18 February – 15 April
Opening Night 17 February, 6.00pm
Curator’s floor talk Saturday 18 February, 12.00pm

QUT Art Museum
Gardens Point campus, 2 George Street, Brisbane
www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au
Ph 07 3138 5370
artmuseum@qut.edu.au
Open: Tue-Fri 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun 12pm–4pm
Admission Free

This exhibition is proudly supported by the American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia Inc., New York, USA, and made possible with the generous support of Mr Anton Bruehl Jr.
Anton Bruehl

*Model Ruth Curlett in red sun hat 1936*
for Vogue, 1 July 1936
colour print
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Gift of American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia Inc., New York NY USA
Made possible with the generous support of Anton Bruehl Jr, 2006

Anton Bruehl

*Harlem number, Versailles cafe 1943*
colour photograph
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Gift of American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia Inc., New York NY USA
Made possible with the generous support of Anton Bruehl Jr, 2006
Image courtesy of George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography and Film
color print, dye imbibition (Kodak Dye Transfer) print made after 1946

Anton Bruehl

*Portrait of Marlene Dietrich, Hollywood 1935*
direct positive colour photograph
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Gift of American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia Inc., New York NY USA
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Anton Bruehl

*Swimsuit advertisement 1951*
dye-transfer colour photograph
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Martin Bruehl

*Anton Bruehl among studio spotlights, Manhattan c 1932*
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
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