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Arianna Kiriakos
Edith Farnsworth House Historic Site
630.273.7053
AKiriakos@savingplaces.org
www.edithfarnsworthhouse.org

FOR PHOTOS AND RELATED CONTENT, go to: <https://edithfarnsworthhouse.org/roger-brown-media-kit/>

Media Preview: Friday, August 5, 11:15 am-12 pm, 1:15 pm-2pm– contact Arianna

Roger Brown and Miesian Metropolitanism Exhibition at Edith Farnsworth House

Plano, IL (July 29, 2022) – The Edith Farnsworth House Historic Site will open a new exhibition, “Roger Brown and Miesian Metropolitanism,” on Sunday, August 7, from 2-4:00pm, in the Barnsworth Gallery, located next to the Visitor Center. The exhibition focuses on the life and art of Chicago-based artist Roger Brown (1941-1997) and his interest in the work of modernist architect Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) – architect of the Edith Farnsworth House. The exhibition was produced in partnership with the Roger Brown Study Collection of the Scholl of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Kavi Gupta.

The exhibition will include both original works and reproductions, including “My House In The Dunes,” depicting Brown’s weekend house, designed by his life partner, architect George Veronda, and inspired by the Edith Farnsworth House. Next to the painting, a new video, produced by James Connolly, Collection Manager of the Roger Brown Study Collection, will include excerpts from several interviews with Roger Brown and footage of his work – including the creation of “My House In The Dunes.”

Art and architecture are generally studied separately, even though they often overlap and evolve from larger art movements and societal influences. In the case of Roger Brown and Mies Van Der Rohe, the cultural influences and societal undercurrents of 20th century modernism impacted both of their work, even though its unlikely they ever met. Although both of their work fell out of fashion for a time, their work is now of current interest with renewed scholarship, and increased collectability and value.

Brown the artist and Mies the architect were towering figures in their respective practices—beacons of pure intention and masterful execution. Many of Brown’s paintings ruminate on buildings and contemporary cityscapes, and Mies collected modern art by some of the very same artists who influenced Brown’s work. Not by accident, Mies’ restrained architectural compositions, both residential and commercial, often serve as showcases for collections of modern and contemporary art.

This exhibition will provide a fresh perspective on the aesthetic interplay and philosophical crosscurrents that informed the careers of two Chicago Modernists who became icons of 20th century art. A panel discussion will be held at 6:00pm on August 11 at Chicago Architecture Center:

<https://www.architecture.org/programs-events/detail/roger-brown-and-miesian-metropolitanism/>

Designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1945 and constructed in 1951, the Edith Farnsworth House is a vital part of American iconography, and exemplary representation of both the International Style of architecture as well as the modern movement's desire to juxtapose restrained architecture with organic nature. Mies constructed this house of "almost nothing" for Dr. Edith Farnsworth as a country retreat along the Fox River near Plano, IL. From 1972-2003, the house served as a summer home for the British Lord, Peter Palumbo, when it was sold to the National Trust for Historic Preservation with a preservation and conservation easement by Landmarks Illinois. Since opening to the public in 2004, more than 150,000 visitors have toured the house and surrounding 58 acres.

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