



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***“Women & Horses Revisited: Charles Rumph Photography”* Exhibition to Open at the National Sporting Library & Museum**

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – May 5, 2023 – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is excited to announce the upcoming exhibition and silent auction of photography by Charles W. Rumph (American, 1932–2019), opening June 3, 2023 and on view until September 17, 2023. The NSLM will host two events for the exhibition on Saturday, June 3, 2023, including Coffee with the Curator from 10:00–12:00pm and a Members Reception & Auction Preview from 6:00–8:00pm. A silent auction will be held to benefit the NSLM’s Art Acquisition Fund, and a roundtable discussion on women in the horse industry’s past, present, and future, is being planned. The exhibition of over 100 works will be on view throughout the Library, including the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall, Founders’ Room, and Main Reading Room.

Women & Horses Revisited: Charles Rumph Photography, is a reinterpretation of Rumph’s 1996 landmark solo exhibition, *Women & Horses: A Celebration*, held at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, Kentucky. It was the culmination of a photographic project in which he documented women in the American equestrian world and the wide variety of roles they had come to embody at all ages—from enthusiasts to professionals. The exhibition offers a comprehensive and evocative view of the 1990s horse industry. Some are quirky and others gritty, yet all of the photographs resonate with the talent and determination of the women who inspired Rumph’s vision.

“I am attempting to truly celebrate the skill, daring, and competence of women in all the various ways in which they are engaged with horses. I have recorded images of women – young and not so young – in most parts of the horse world: as farriers, veterinary surgeons, therapists, owners, trainers, jockeys, teachers, exercise riders, hunters, competitors – riding, using and caring for all breeds from thoroughbreds, saddlebreds, and standard breeds, to ponies, draft horses and cutting horses. The exhibit illustrates the remarkable extent to which horses rely on and look to women.”

- Charles Rumph

After Rumph’s passing in 2019, his wife Shirley Z. Johnson (1940–2021), donated the collection, thousands of original slides, transparencies, photographs and archival materials to the NSLM with the plan that the majority of the photographic prints would be sold as a fundraiser after they were exhibited. Later, she bequeathed funding

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to create an online repository to preserve Rumph's legacy and his tribute to women and horses. Today, the Charles Rumph Digital Archive is housed on NSLM's Internet Archive and five photographic have been added to the NSLM's permanent collection. It was Johnson's profound wish that we celebrate Rumph's accomplishment along with the capable women he highlighted, and it is with a deep sense of completion and honor that we are stewards of the digital repository and will present the exhibition, *Women & Horses Revisited: Charles Rumph Photography* along with the accompanying silent auction of photographic prints.

The National Sporting Library & Museum is located in Middleburg, VA, the heart of beautiful horse country. Founded in 1954, the renowned research Library and fine art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the organization's general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection. The NSLM offers a wide variety of educational programs, exhibitions, and family activities throughout the year, and is open to researchers and the public. There is no admission fee to the Library. The Museum charges \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths (age 13–18), and \$8 for seniors. NSLM members and children age 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Library & Museum hours are Thursday–Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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[Click here for blog article *Chuck, Charlie, and Charles Rumph*](#)

[Click here for *Charles Rumph Digital Archive*](#)

[Click here for Exhibition, Silent Auction, and Event Updates](#)

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Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Caitlin Larson, n.d.
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches



Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Racing; Trainers; Donna Ward, c. 1994–1996
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 x 13 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches

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Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Debbie Stroup, Equine Dental Technician, n.d.
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches



Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Competition; Team Driving; Cindy Goff, n.d.
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 x 13 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches



Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
[cow roping], c. 1994–1996
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches



Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Competition; Hunter/Jumpers/Eventers; Rolex, c. 1994–1996
photograph mounted on shadow box
13 1/2 x 9 x 1 3/4 inches



Charles William Rumph (American, 1932–2019)
Susan Ericsson Exhibition, n.d.
photograph mounted on shadow box
9 x 13 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches