

**Collection Acquisition**

**NEWS**



American conceptual photographer Robert Cumming is best known for his explorations of perception and illusion. With funds from the Avis and James K. Heller Art Acquisition Endowment, the Haggerty Museum of Art recently acquired two of his paparazzi-like photographs of famous actors and actresses, a series that questions the cult of celebrity. In *Faye Dunaway, Academy Awards, Music Center, Los Angeles, CA, 1977*, the dazed actress holds the Oscar moments after winning the award for her performance in the 1976 film, *Network*. In this candid photograph, Dunaway's unrehearsed confusion supplants her star quality, an identity constructed as much by the movie-going public as the actress herself. While tuning into the Academy Awards this weekend, we will be thinking about this recent acquisition and its relationship to current social media platforms, which instantaneously capture and disseminate celebrities' "breaks in character," both good and bad. In this context Cumming's behind the scenes image serves as a time capsule; while

it reveals authentic emotion, it does so slowly and subtly.

*Faye Dunaway, Academy Awards, Music Center, Los Angeles, CA, 1977, 1978*



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