

# PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

## Breuhl Membership

In the 1930s, American artists who were not necessarily sponsored by the government began to record the economic and social plight of the workers and farming people, and to capture a way of life that was authentically Mexican and untainted by foreign influences. During this decade, few foreign photographers were interested in looking beyond the picturesque or idealized Mexican. Two prominent exceptions were photographers Paul Strand and Anton Bruehl, who took a more intimate look at the people of Mexico. Bruehl mainly photographed individuals removed from their historical cultural context. To quote Bruehl in his first 1933 edition of Mexico, "These photographs were taken within a few hundred miles of Mexico City. They show nothing of Mexican cathedrals, public buildings, or ruins. They do not undertake to present Mexico."

Bruehl, whose work was highly admired by students and who later became known for the high-quality color images that he produced for Condé Nast's magazines, ran a commercial partnership with his brother Martin in New York from 1927 through the 1930s. Together they produced images remarkable for their unusual lighting effects and angles of view;

their strong, simple graphic organization, their meticulous craftsmanship and understated humor.

Creating abstract patterns of light and shadow through elaborate lighting designs, many of his theatrically staged celebrity and commercial photographs appeared as large promotional print ad campaigns and spreads in Vanity Fair and Vogue. With Fernand Bourges he developed a colour process which became the standard for color photography in the 1930's, and he is noted for the effectiveness of the use of colour in his own work.

**This page from left to right, top to bottom:** Patio [5] La India- Cuernavaca [8] Young Girls of the Pueblo [10] Boatman- Xochimilco [6] Woman of Toluca [12] Master Potter - Mexico City [13] Madre de las Montanas [16] Dolores [14]

**The following page from left to right, top to bottom:** Street Market- Amanalco [1] Tomando el Sol- San Juan Teotihuacan [2] Muchacho [3] Rebozo [4] Rope Vendors - Amanalco [18] On the Road to Toluca [25] Sombreros [21] La Nina [23] Lucretia [19] Mother and Child of Xochimilco [22] La Criada- Cuautla [20] Mother and Child of Taxco [24] Mulero [9] Mother and Son - Toluca [11]

All images are from the Delphic Studio Portfolio, Edition 1000 Colotype by the Photocrome Press, New York



