

THE DRAWING ROOM 66H Newtown Lane East Hampton New York 11937 T 631 324 5016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLES JONES [British, 1866-1959]

Selected Photographs

Extended through January 14, 2018



Potato Red Round, c. 1900



Parrot Tulips, c. 1900

The gallery is pleased to show a selection of rare vintage photographs by **Charles Jones (1866-1959)**, an English gardener whose sensitively composed images of vegetables, fruits and flowers have been widely championed since they were discovered at a London antiques market in 1981. While the horticultural expertise Jones brought to his work as the gardener at Ote Hall in Sussex has been traced to a 1905 professional publication, his remarkable achievement as an early photographer went unrecognized during his lifetime, and remains quite mysterious today. What is clear is that the meticulous attention he devoted to capturing the beauty of produce and flowering plants with his camera was matched by the care he devoted to their cultivation.

Printed from glass plate negatives, Jones' gold-toned gelatin silver prints represent an unusually modern sensibility that contrasts the prevailing approach to botanical subjects by his contemporaries. The nine tightly composed photographs on view range from a cluster of heirloom beans, to a single onion enveloped in light, to a platter of potatoes. A pair of extraordinary parrot tulips is one of three iconic floral subjects.

As author and museum curator Robert Flynn Johnson once noted:

The strength of Jones' photographs is in the subtlety of his arrangement, lighting and focus. They do not have the decorative artsiness of the Edwardian age in which they were created. Instead, his works anticipate the modernism of painters like Charles Demuth and Giorgio Morandi and photographers such as Edward Weston and Karl Blossfeldt without the attendant formalism of twentieth century aesthetics. The photographs of Charles Jones have a simplicity, like Shaker furniture, that is spare and direct.

(over)

Charles Jones' vintage photographs are in the collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, San Francisco, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. His work has been the subject of museum exhibitions at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (1988), at Le Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne, Switzerland (1999), and the Chicago Botanical Gardens (1999).

www.drawingroom-gallery.com

Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11-5, and by appointment

For further information and reproduction quality images, please contact the gallery at 631 324.5016