



The **Korshak** Collection

Illustrations of Imaginative Literature

EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS
2022-2027

"... some of the greatest fantasy masterpieces of our time."
- Society of Illustrators, New York

NOTE FROM THE COLLECTOR

As a young man, I was fortunate enough to grow up with great art in my bedroom. My father, Erle Korshak, was the publisher of a pioneering science fiction book company, Shasta Publishers. Shasta ushered in the transition of important science fiction literature from magazines printed on cheap pulp paper to hardcover, library-quality books. Much of that art lived with us at our house and at the company office in Chicago.

In particular, the J. Allen St. John illustration for the 1941 *Amazing Stories* magazine cover of John Carter battling the Dead in "The City of Mummies" lured me into a fantastic world that I never knew existed. The soft focus of the Martian city in the background had a dreamlike quality, as did the canals of Mars, the scorching red ground, the four-armed green Martian, the eight-legged Martian thoat, and John Carter leaping gravity-less in the Martian atmosphere. I read and enjoyed the Edgar Rice Burroughs story behind the illustration, but for me, the illustration itself gave me a sense of wonder I had never previously experienced.

So began for me a lifelong love affair with illustration art. In the process, I learned that fantasy art was one subset in the field of illustration art. Some illustrators were self-taught, others were classically trained. Some illustrators' works were iconic and defined a whole generation's visualization of certain authors' work and literary characters. I also learned that many scholars in the field of art during the 20th century made a distinction between what they considered fine art versus illustration, or commercial art.

Today, a reassessment has been taking place among art historians and scholars. Many now consider some illustrators, like Norman Rockwell, Howard Pyle,



JOHN CARTER & THE CITY OF MUMMIES, J. Allen St. John (1872-1957), 1941. Gouache on paper, 18 x 13".

Maxfield Parrish, and N.C. Wyeth, fine artists as well as illustrators. If you look at many of the works in this collection, I think you will see that such distinctions are arbitrary.

Any collection is an intellectual exercise in organizing tangible items into a set. It is a manifestation of the collector's vision of the field. This collection is a vision of the fantastic. It is one of great illustrators as well as illustrations that had a great influence on imaginative literature. I hope that you will, as much as I have, learn not only about a whole new field but also a lot about yourself.

- STEPHEN KORSHAK

ABOUT THE COLLECTION



The Korshak Collection consists of approx. 100 paintings, drawings, and etchings of published illustration including works from the classical stories *Tarzan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Faust*, *The Tempest*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, and *Don Quixote*, among others. The Collection also includes artwork originally featured in some of the most notable contemporary fiction stories such as *John Carter/ The Princess of Mars* and the *Lord of the Rings*.



The show is offered fully curated and may be altered, redacted, or supplemented to fit the curriculum of the hosting institution. Versions of this exhibition have been featured at the American Society of Illustrators, the Stanford Museum, the University of Maryland at Baltimore's Kuhn Library, the Chazen Museum, and the South Bend Museum of Art, among others. Artwork from the collection has been exhibited at the Norman Rockwell Museum, the MUVIM (Spain), and toured Japan.



Original copies of the novels, magazines, and printed materials where the illustrations were first published are provided for display and programming opportunities. Programming for this exhibit has included screening of associated films, children's stories/read-a-longs, costuming, collector's participation including collection tours, and artist/author discussion panels. There are certainly more opportunities than limitations with programming given the breadth and familiarity of the major exhibition themes.

As exhibited at the Chazen Museum: Nov. 2017 - Feb. 2018
Photography by Eric Tadsen

EXHIBITION THEMES

Themes of the collection include: historical and contemporary fantasy literature, classical and 20th century illustration, science fiction and fantasy themes and characters, space and technology, literary icons and famous stories, the intersection of fine art and illustration art, pulp illustration, printing history, and the art of collecting

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES



LOST TRIBES OF VENUS, Kelly Frear (1922-2005), 1954. Oil on canvas board, 19 x 13".
LOST TRIBES OF VENUS: PLANET STORIES MAG



LIFE ON NEPTUNE, Frank R. Paul (1992-1963), 1940. Gouache on illustration board, 14 x 11".
FANTASTIC ADVENTURES MAGAZINE



GREEN HILLS OF EARTH, Stanley Meltzoff (1917-2006), 1952. Oil on canvas, 20 x 18".
GREEN HILLS OF EARTH: ROBERT HEINLEIN



WAR OF THE WORLDS, Jose Segrelles (1885-1969), c. 1930. Watercolor, 11 x 16".
WAR OF THE WORLDS: H.G. WELLS

FANTASY LITERATURE



THE MOCK TURTLE, Arthur Rackham (1867-1939), 1907. Pen and ink, watercolor, 11 x 7".
ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND: L. CAROLL



FULL FATHOM FIVE, Edmund Dulac (1882-1953), 1908. Pen and ink, gouache, 17 x 11".
THE TEMPEST, ACT I: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



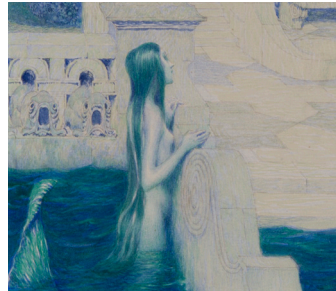
THE PIT & THE PENDULUM, Harry Clarke (1889-1931), 1919. Pen and ink, 9 x 7".
TALES OF MYSTERY & IMAGINATION: EDGAR A. POE



ABDUCTION OF JANE, J. Allen St. John (1872-1957), 1921. Watercolor, 25 x 16".
TARZAN THE TERRIBLE: EDGAR R. BURROUGHS

FEATURED ARTISTS

JASCHIK ALMOS
 JAMES AVATI
 AUBREY BEARDSLEY
 WLADYSLAW BENDA
 EARL K. BERGEY
 HANNES BOK
 FRANKLIN BOOTH
 MARGARET BRUNDAGE
 JIM BURNS
 HARRY CLARKE
 JOSEPH CLEMENT COLL
 GUSTAVE DORE
 EDMUND DULAC
 EDWARD EMSHWILLER
 VIRGIL FINLAY
 SCOTT FISCHER
 WILLIAM RUSSELL FLINT
 FRANK FRAZETTA
 KELLY FREAS
 BRIAN FROUD
 BROTHERS HILDEBRANDT
 MICHAEL KALUTA
 HEINRICH KLEY
 ROY KRENKEL
 DOROTHY LATHROP
 HEINRICH LEFLER
 NORMAN LINDSAY



PAUL MAK (PAVEL IVANOV)
 FORTUNINO MATANIA
 IAIN McCAIG
 STANLEY MELTZOFF
 KAY NIELSEN
 FRANK R. PAUL
 WILLIAM "WILLY" POGANY
 J. K. POTTER
 RICHARD POWERS
 HOWARD PYLE
 ARTHUR RACKHAM
 WILLIAM HEATH ROBINSON
 HUBERT ROGERS
 JOHN SCHOENHERR
 ALEX SCHOMBURG
 FRANK E. SCHOONOVER
 JOSE SEGRELLES
 SIDNEY SIME
 MALCOM SMITH
 J. ALLEN ST. JOHN
 LAWRENCE STERNE STEVENS
 GUSTAF TENGGREN
 WILLIAM TIMLIN
 EDWARD VALIGURSKY
 HANS WESSO
 MICHAEL WHELAN
 N. C. WYETH

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

SEPT. 1-5, 2022: 80th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION, CHICAGO

SEPT. 16. - NOV. 23, 2022: CORVUS GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAB SCHOOL

JAN. - APRIL 2023: BOZEMAN ART MUSEUM, MT

MAY 2023 - JULY 2025: NOW BOOKING

FALL 2025: UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

JANUARY 2026 - DEC. 2027: NOW BOOKING

TRANSPORTATION & FEES

Artwork is individually packed in AirFloat Lined Strongboxes inside of double-lined cardboard container boxes. Shipping by fine art carrier is required and may be provided by our shipping partner: TCI International.

WEEKLY RENTAL FEE
\$1,000

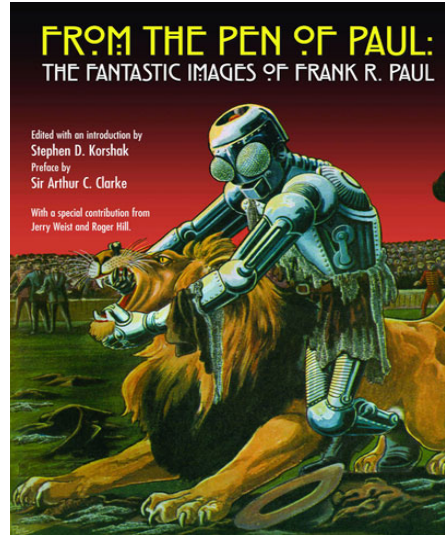
Weekly rental fee is subject to discount dependent on exhibition length and artwork inventory requested. We would love to discuss budget with you. Please contact collection curator Lauren Stump at lauren@korshakcollection.com for more information.



As exhibited at the South Bend Museum of Art: Nov. 2019- Jan. 2020
Photography by Mark Rospenda

SHASTA PHOENIX PUBLISHERS

The story of the Korshak Collection begins with the story of Shasta Publishers. Shasta was established in 1947 by Erle Korshak, Ted Ditky, and Mark Reinsberg, three young science fiction fans from the Chicago area. The small press published stories by John W. Campbell Jr., L. Ron Hubbard, Robert Heinlein, A. E. van Vogt, among others. For his contributions to the field of science fiction publishing, Erle Korshak is posthumously a Guest of Honor at this year's 80th World Science Fiction Convention. Shasta Publishers was reborn in 2009 as Shasta-Phoenix Publishers to promote the incredible illustration artists and artwork of 20th century fantasy publishing.



Co-authored by collector Steve Korshak and promoting key artists from the collection's inventory, all Shasta-Phoenix books featured here are available for consignment to the hosting institutions gift shop and library. Proceeds from the sale of the books are contributed in part to the hosting institution.

