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| Peabox Essex Museum | | | |

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| **The Harvard Society for Contemporary Art** |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| [Enter an **abstract** for your article] |
| The Harvard Society for Contemporary Art was an art gallery that organised groundbreaking exhibitions of modern painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture. Active from 1929 to 1936, the Society was the first organisation in America devoted to an ongoing program of changing the content of avant-garde exhibitions. The Society’s leaders were three Harvard undergraduates: Lincoln Kirstein, Edward M. M. Warburg, and John Walker III. They rented a room in Harvard Square and held exhibitions that included works borrowed from other collections and works up for sale. The Society’s mission was to be contemporary and experimental, and to show controversial work not being displayed in established museums. The Society gained immediate recognition for its pioneering exhibitions of European and American art. They exhibited current work by some of the leading modern artists of the day including Constantin Brancusi, Alexander Calder, and Isamu Noguchi. The first Boston exhibitions of Picasso, Matisse, and Ben Shahn were held at the Society. It was also the first venue in the country to exhibit Bauhaus architecture. |
| Further reading:  Barr, Nancy. ‘The Legacy of Photographic Modernism in America: Edward Weston's ‘Photographic Art’ and Charles Sheeler's ‘Wheels’’ *Bulletin of the Detroit Institute of Arts* 80.1 (2006): 42-51.  Nickel, Douglas. ‘‘American Photographs’ Revisited’ *American Art* 6.2 (1992): 78-97. |