

Fitchburg Photography Curator to Speak at June 2nd PHSNE Meeting



Photo by Vanessa De Zorzi

PHSNE member Stephen Jareckie, Consulting Curator of Photography at the Fitchburg Art Museum, will speak at the June meeting about the Museum's photography program.

Jareckie will use as visual "book ends" one of FAM's first photogra-

phy acquisitions, Charles Sheeler's stark *Chartres Cathedral (flying buttresses)*, and 21st-century work, recently donated by Dr. Anthony Terrana, a Boston-area collector, who is giving his collection to the Museum. He will describe major exhibitions and important acquisitions that trace the photographic medium from the 1860s to the present and which focus on cultures world-wide.

The Fitchburg Art Museum photography collection now numbers over 1400 prints. Peter Timms, Director from 1973 to 2012, initiated FAM's collecting activity by accepting the gift of three Charles Sheeler photographs in 1981. Timms later purchased a rare, large-



Yasumasa Morimura,
An Inner Dialogue with Frida Kahlo:
Flower Wreath and Tears, 2001

format photogravure on Japan tissue of *The Steerage* by Alfred Stieglitz, one of eight known prints that still exist. Timms showed area artists' work and hosted successive exhibitions of contemporary Czech, Russian, and Scottish photographs, lent by The Navigator Foundation of Boston. Under

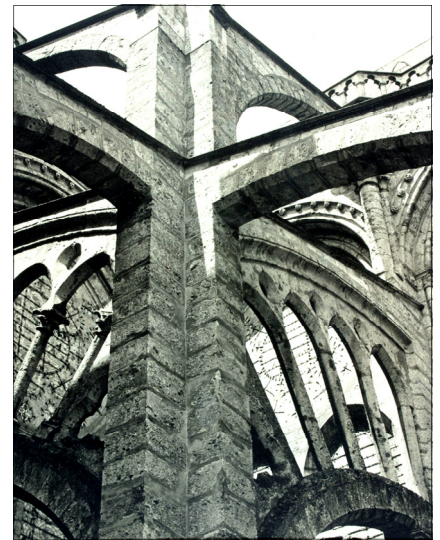
Timms' directorship, the FAM acquired a private collection of over 330 American photographs, bequeathed by the Estate of Jude Peterson.

Nick Capasso, who became FAM Director in 2012, is energetically enlarging FAM's photography holdings. Capasso is engaging collectors, who are generously donating prints to the Museum. To familiarize viewers with the growing collection, newly acquired photographs have been frequently exhibited in FAM's renovated Ronald M. Ansin Gallery.

Jareckie joined the Fitchburg Art Museum staff as Photography Advisor in 1996 after he retired from thirty-five years' service as Curator of Photography at the Worcester Art Museum.

Jareckie has focused on building the FAM photography collection and has mounted over forty exhibitions at Fitchburg, including work by New Englanders Peter Moriarty (1996), Marie Cosindas (1997), Frank Armstrong (1999), Robert Sargent Fay (2000), Harold Edgerton (2001), Chester Michalik (2006), and Neal Rantoul (2017). In 2010, Jareckie co-curated an exhibition with PHSNE: *Snapshot Photography: Historical Overview and Vintage Snapshot Cameras*.

The Fitchburg Art Museum was founded in 1925 by Fitchburg philanthropist Eleanor Norcross. For information, consult www.fitchburgartmuseum.org.



Charles Sheeler, Chartres Cathedral,
(flying buttresses), 1929

New England Summer Photo Exhibit

If your travels bring you to Maine this summer, you can view an interesting exhibit at Colby College in Waterville. *Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories*, presented for the first time in the United States, is an exhibit of Theaster Gates's work. It includes almost 3,000 images from the Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company which "chronicled the lives of Black Americans for more than seven decades through the magazines *Ebony* and *Jet*. . .



Courtesy Johnson Publishing Company, LLC.
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The presentation of this new body of work is drawn from Gates's *Black Madonna* exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel in 2018, part of his larger Black Image Corporation project" (<https://www.colby.edu/museum/exhibition/theaster-gates-facsimile-cabinet-of-women-origin-stories>). The exhibit runs through September 8, 2019.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at www.phsne.org/join or www.phsne.org/renew, or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Please check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership-chair@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/application).

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. It is available at <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to PHSNE.

Successful *Photographica*, Auction

Photographica 88 took place on April 6, 2019. The show was very close to a sellout with over 70 vendor tables filled with classic, collectible, and coveted cameras. More than 250 people attended. This was without a doubt the youngest group of people I have ever seen at a *Photographica* since the "Golden Days" of the show prior to the Internet. Our focus on social media as a marketing tool succeeded, due to the hard work of Bethany Jones and Chris Hubert. My hope is that the attendees will use what they purchased to produce new and exciting images.

The bargain tables, including the popular dollar tables, drew big crowds. The front crew, as usual, was brilliant, and the auction team crafted another gem of an auction. The PHSNE Warehouse Team got everything out and on-site. Marty Jones pitched



another brilliant game as our auctioneer. Our crack kitchen staff know full well how hard it is to give food away for free. A small team of dedicated volunteers make this show work. We would love to see more people help us so we could move this show to the next level.

Unfortunately I was not able to sign a contract with our current venue for next year. I am looking for another location for the mid-April show in 2020. PHSNE needs a large hall with room for 80 tables that can be rented all day Friday and Saturday. The hall should be in the greater Boston area and needs to have free parking for at least 200 cars.

I'm considering colleges along route 128 from Newton in the South to Burlington in the North, including Bentley, Brandeis, and any of the 2 year schools. Do you have any suggestions? If you have an "in" or a contact name, please let me know.



Crowds around the dollar table

~John Dockery, Photographica Show Manager
781-592-2553 or john_dockery@hotmail.com

The Portable Blair Tourograph—Pack and Go

“The Tourograph was envisioned by Thomas Henry Blair as a complete, portable photographic system. Originally introduced in 1878, the first Tourograph was an outfit containing everything needed (including the chemistry) by amateur field photographers to expose and develop wet collodion plates” (<http://www.antiquewoodcameras.com/tourogr1.html>).



Blair Tourograph (original), antiquewoodcameras.com

As a photographer, Blair was aware of the challenges of carrying bulky, heavy equipment to and from photo assignments. His initial answer was to design the wet plate Tourograph, “an open wooden box with a camera mounted on top that included a dark cloth instead of a bellows.”

In the field, according to an 1880 company brochure, the Tourograph was “secured onto its tripod, the lensboard reversed and mounted, and the platebox lifted from inside the body and repositioned on top. A pair of brass mounts located at the top of the platebox accepts a viewfinder (if it wasn't already lost). A brass knob on top of the platebox provides a secure grip to help raise and lower the assembly.”

However, with the approaching demise of collodion technology, he modified the camera to work with dry gelatin plates (c. 1880). As dry plates did not need to be developed in the field, the wet and dry plate cameras had very different designs.

The portable system used for all three versions of the dry plate Tourograph consisted of a wooden

body, lens, and a plate changing mechanism that held six to eight plates, depending on plate size. Pre-loaded in the darkroom, the plate changer allowed for easily changing and exposing plates in the field.

While the portability of the wet plate Tourograph made it convenient, the actual use was complicated, and manufacture of it ceased ca. 1883. Production was limited, and few remain in collections, only four according to Antique Wood Camera: “a wet plate model in the Smithsonian patent collection, two 2-door models (one residing in the George Eastman House Collection), and a sole example of the single door model. No examples of the improved dry-plate Tourograph have been identified.”



Blair Tourograph (original), antiquewoodcameras.com

The better-known self-casing cameras were developed shortly thereafter, in 1883, by George Frank E. Pearsall. It took about seven years to “catch on,” but eventually these simpler to operate cameras became popular and remain much better-known than the Tourograph.

The Blair Company only produced the dry plate-Tourograph for about three years and eventually replaced it with the Lucidograph ca. 1885. It too had a limited run and is rarely found in collections today. Visit <http://www.antiquewoodcameras.com/luci01.html> for more information about the Lucidograph and <http://www.piercevaubel.com/cam/blair/bltour.htm> for more about the Tourograph.

Wildlife Sanctuary Presents *Wild by Nature*

The Linden Street Gallery at the Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary in Boylston, MA is offering *Wild by Nature, The Black and White Worlds of Erik Hoffner* through July 2nd. The exhibit “features three series of black and white photographs created by photojournalist Erik Hoffner over the span of two decades, including scenes of destruction left in the chaotic wake of a recent Massachusetts tornado, portraits of semi-wild breeds of livestock recently saved from extinction, and beguiling abstract images of ice formations unknowingly created by fishermen in partnership with elemental forces” (<https://summerstarwildlife.wordpress.com/>).

The free exhibit focuses on the fact that, “Nature is unpredictable: one minute serene and beckoning, the next wild and chaotic, its forms sculpted by elemental forces over incredible spans of time and its creatures driven by impulses and ways of knowing that remain largely mysterious.”

After enjoying the exhibit, tour the 45 acres that are “home to plants, streams, glacial boulders, and wild animals large and small. It is our mission to protect and care for wildlife habitats, trails, forests, streams, and wetlands.”



PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings: PHSNE does not hold summer meetings, and *snap shots* does not publish a July or August issue. Details about the September program will appear in the September issue to be mailed in mid-August.

Driving directions to Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St, right onto Lincoln St, and left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW (#72) will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

See <https://mbta.com/>

Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE's Web site is online at <http://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snap shots* e-copy, and *Photographa* show announcements. Sign up at <http://phsne.org/emails>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<https://www.dpreview.com/news/9631445201/2019-pulitzer-prize-photography-award-winners-announced> - Site contains Pulitzer prize winning photos and informational text

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/d-day-75th-anniversary-photo-book--2#/> - D-Day 75th Anniversary Photo Book, airborne operations of WW II paratroopers and C-47 aircraft

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-artistry-behind-protecting-and-repairing-photographs?fbclid=IwAR0lxn_l0QFPt9m4-3YZ5VFT8uizFtrx6mDWJA_o4iPKRa8RJm9L-Asnays - The artistry behind protecting and repairing photographs

[http://motamedi.info/text/Eastman-Kodak%20\(1935\)%20Collodion%20and%20the%20Making%20of%20Wet-Plate%20Negatives](http://motamedi.info/text/Eastman-Kodak%20(1935)%20Collodion%20and%20the%20Making%20of%20Wet-Plate%20Negatives) - Interesting discussion about collodion and the making of wet plate negatives