

THE WORK OF
ATGET

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RELEASE

THE ART OF OLD PARIS

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 14, 1982-JANUARY 4, 1983

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: THE WORK OF ATGET: THE ART OF OLD PARIS

DATES: October 14, 1982---January 4, 1983

SPONSOR: This exhibition is part of the Springs Industries Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art.

DIRECTOR: John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography

CONTENTS: THE WORK OF ATGET: THE ART OF OLD PARIS will present 117 prints by the French photographer Eugène Atget (1857-1927). It is the second in a four-part series of exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art (the first was THE WORK OF ATGET: OLD FRANCE) that will explore the life work of this unique artist--the photographic documentation of French culture. Atget made perhaps 10,000 pictures during his lifetime; three thousand of these were of Old Paris.

The photographs in THE ART OF OLD PARIS, taken between 1898 and 1927, describe a city that had nearly vanished. They offer a portrait of the several demeanors and styles of life in the capital as it appeared prior to its transformation in the 19th century by social and economic revolutions and by the urban renewal projects of Baron Georges Haussmann.

To produce his portrait of Old Paris, Atget photographed famous sites and monuments, such as the banks and bridges of the Seine, Notre-Dame, the Pantheon and the Luxembourg Palace, and photographed districts such as Montmartre, Passy and the Gobelins area that had retained an atmosphere characteristic of the epoch when they had been villages outside of Old Paris. He also recorded little-known corners and little-noticed artifacts such as private townhouses, quiet courtyards, humble shops and worn stairs.

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