

# The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NINETEENTH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A selection of important 19th-century photographs from the collection of Arnold H. Crane will be on view in the third-floor Steichen Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art, May 7 through July 29. NINETEENTH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ARNOLD H. CRANE COLLECTION, directed by Betsy Jablo, Newhall Fellow in the Museum's Department of Photography, and Joel Snyder, Associate Professor of Art at the University of Chicago, will be the first exhibition of 19th-century work from the Crane collection; much of the work on view has never been exhibited before.

The exhibition includes examples of a variety of photographic processes used by some early practitioners of the art: Mayall's unusually large daguerreotype of the Crystal Palace made in 1851; an anonymous tintype portrait from the 1860s; a number of plates from an English Calotype Exchange Club album (circulated among the members of this club in the 1850s, with each member adding his or her own contributions); and a few plates from a Hippolyte Bayard album (described by Crane as the highlight of his 19th-century collection). Bayard was the first to make and exhibit direct positive photographic prints, but his accomplishment was overshadowed by Daguerre's more celebrated announcement to the French Académie des Sciences in the same year (1839).

The selection from the Arnold H. Crane collection will also include a number of works from the 1840s by William Henry Fox Talbot, an Englishman who laid his claim to the discovery of the negative-positive process almost simultaneously with that of Daguerre. The exhibition will reflect the

travels of the earliest photographers, who documented such various scenes as the temples of Egypt and India, the building of the Union Pacific Railroad, and aboriginal life in Australia. Several plates from Victorian collage albums will be shown. These collages of photographic prints with ink and watercolor drawings are very early examples of an art usually associated with the later movements of Dada and Surrealism.

Other well-known photographers represented in the show are F. Scott Archer, Henri Le Secq, Charles Nègre, D.O. Hill, and Robert Adamson. The lesser-known figures include F. Flachéron, Emile Pec, Captain L. Tripe, Thomas Keith, and Charles Clifford.

Arnold H. Crane began collecting photographs in 1965. Since that time, he has built a collection comprising a wealth of 19th- and 20th-century materials that include more than 12,000 paper prints, 1,000 daguerreotypes, and close to 1,000 books directly related to the history of photography. Previous exhibitions from Crane's collection have been drawn from his Man Ray and Walker Evans materials. Crane lives in Chicago, where he is a practicing lawyer and an active participant in the photographic community.

NINETEENTH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ARNOLD H. CRANE COLLECTION has been made possible in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

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