Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we all continue to adjust our lives to the realities of the COVID-19 health crises, we hope that you are well and safe.

While it feels strange to go on as usual, knowing that the usual is so far from what we are living now, we would like to share a bit of photography history with you. Hopefully it will take your mind off social isolating and bring the world of Beaumont Newhall and his peers to you with this wonderful video we just re-discovered.

While museums are closed to the public, they are posting online. The Farnsworth Museum in Maine has a beautiful Eliot Porter exhibit up and they have just posted a brief video on Eliot. The video talks about Eliot and his family’s life on Great Spruce Head Island, and the impact of the natural world on them and reminds us of the joys of the ocean, the forest and endless slow days of summer. Please enjoy.

BEAUMONT NEWHALL: THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

This documentary, made in 1992, highlights some of Beaumont’s experiences of being a lifelong friend, mentor and confident of many photographers now in the annals of history.
Chase National Bank, New York, 1928
Gelatin silver print
"Drawn from the Farnsworth’s collection, this exhibition explores the work of photographer Eliot Porter (1901-1990) who introduced color to landscape photography. In so doing, he created a new way of viewing the world that today has become commonplace. An artist with strong scientific and environmental interests, Porter took up color in 1939, long before his fellow photographers accepted the medium, to produce more accurate photographs of birds. Soon thereafter, he expanded his focus to celebrate the colorful beauty of nature in general. Over a fifty-year career that includes works from Maine to China, he built a broad popular reputation based on thousands of richly hued prints and twenty-five books. His work energized environmentalists, drew accolades from museums, and created the foundations for today’s color nature photography. He had a lifelong connection to Maine, having spent every summer since childhood with his family on Great Spruce Head Island, a place that first inspired his interest in photography, initially in black and white and soon after in color. The exhibition is organized by Farnsworth Curator Jane Bianco."
Butter Island, Maine, 1937
Vintage gelatin silver print

We look forward to seeing you soon. Please stay safe and healthy.
With all best regards, Janet, David and Andra

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