

Straight Talk on Collecting Photography

Looking at Photographs: Part 1

This week we are continuing our new series about collecting photography. The plan is to produce a series of videos along with added illustrations and handouts that can be viewed weekly on our website. We hope to cover many aspects that we feel are important to both beginning and seasoned collectors. The topics for these videos are a result of the many conversations we have had in our gallery with visitors these past forty years.

Today's video focuses on looking at the work of a number of photographers and discussing their imagery and approach. Below are a series of illustrations that accompany the video as well as a fun handout that dates to 1934 regarding the sale of Edward Weston's photographs.

Thank you for your suggestions and comments, we will continue to integrate them into our talks.

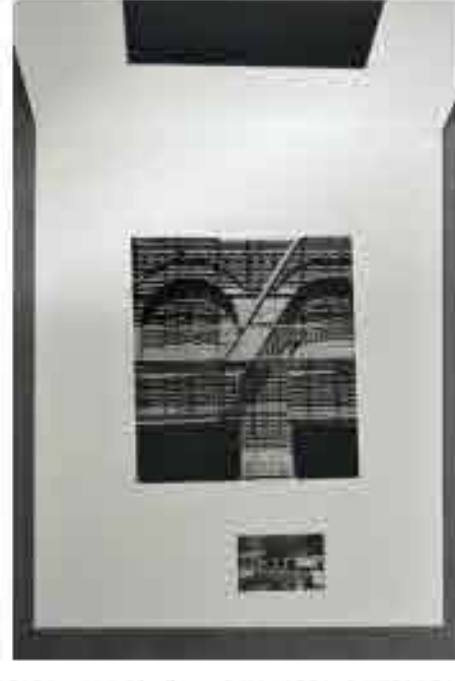


Edward Weston (1886 - 1958)
Charis Weston, Nude, with Fig Leaf, 1946

Below is an excerpt from Beaumont's memoir, *Beaumont Newhall FOCUS: Memoirs of a Life in Photography*, Bullfinch Press, 1993, regarding the photograph that Edward sent to Nancy and Beaumont as a response to the Museum of Modern Art, New York, not wanting to exhibit photographs which showed pubic hair.

<https://youtu.be/GYX8GjyS2uA>

Ralph Steiner (1899 - 1986)



Ralph Steiner (1899 - 1986)
Park Avenue Garage, 1965

As explained in today's video, the importance of viewing works unframed are numerous. Not just for inspecting the print itself, the surface, and any relevant stamping or signatures, but at times, there are surprises. In this case, Ralph helps us understand the importance of excluding extraneous information to produce an interesting photograph which stresses the abstract nature of the fire escape and shadows. Photographers grasping the concept of "inclusion" and "exclusion" make clear and powerful visual representations of the subjects that appear in front of their cameras.



Ralph Steiner (1899 - 1986)
Mimuet on 3rd Avenue, 1922-23



Manuel Álvarez Bravo (1902 - 2002)
Que Chiquito es el Mundo, 1942

Manuel Álvarez Bravo (1902 - 2002)



Platinum print



Gelatin silver print

Manuel Álvarez Bravo (1902 - 2002)

Retrato de lo Eterno, 1935

Platinum and gelatin silver prints

Also as discussed in today's video, Manuel Álvarez Bravo printed this photograph in two ways, in platinum, and gelatin silver. Due to the different chemical and light sensitivities of these metals, they yield prints of varying amounts of detail information and mood. Bravo is not the only photographer that produced images in both platinum and silver. As a collector, you would want to be aware of this as well as hopefully having the opportunity of seeing them both side by side before you make a decision about purchasing the photograph.



Ansel Adams (1902 - 1984)
Aspens, New Mexico, 1958

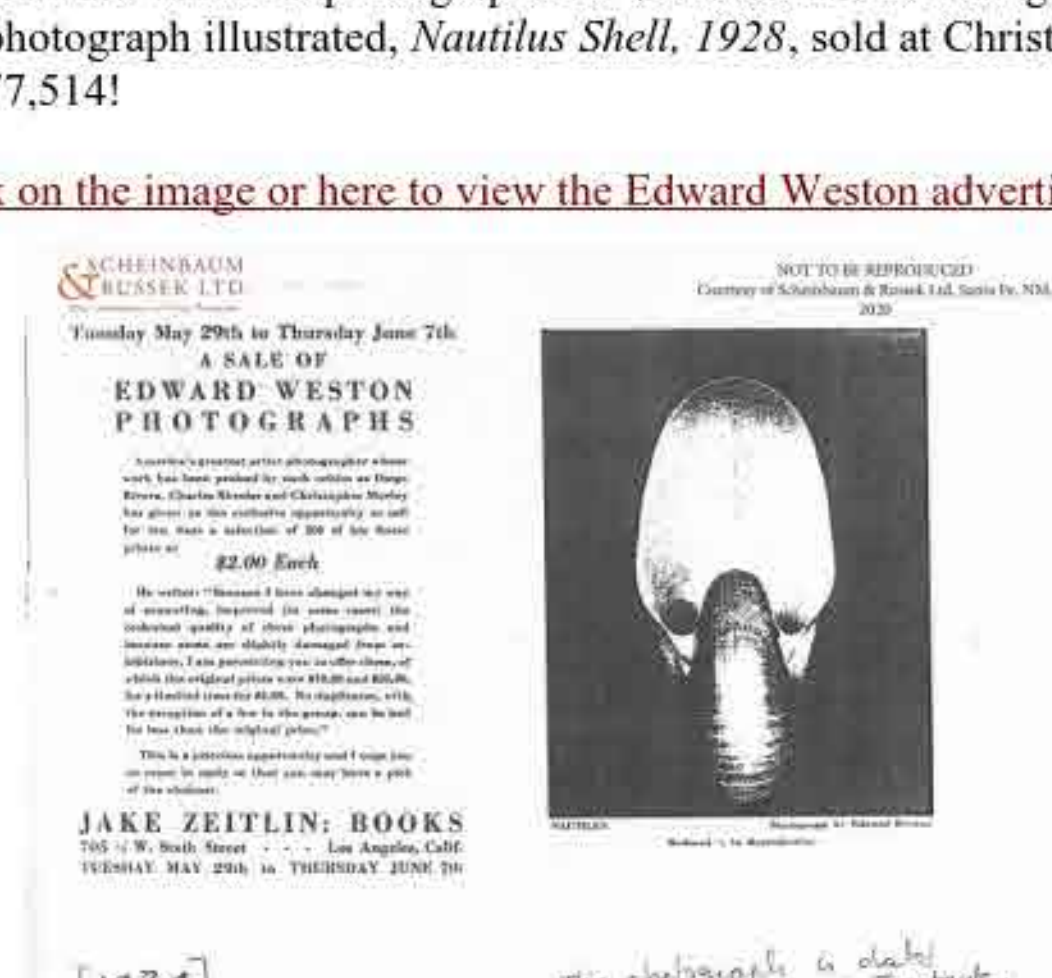


Eliot Porter (1901 - 1990)
Aspens in Early Spring, 1957

Here is an example of two master photographers working at the same location and creating a photograph in which they make the subject matter "their own." Both of these photographs were made in Santa Fe, New Mexico in the late 1950s, and in many ways, both represent Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter's overall stylistic approach to their subject matter.

Today's handout is from the Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Archives. It is an advertisement from Jake Zeitlin: Books in Los Angeles from 1934 offering a selection of Edward Weston's photographs for \$2.00 each. Interesting to note is that a print of the photograph illustrated, *Nautilus Shell, 1928*, sold at Christie's London in 2019 for \$677,514!

[Click on the image or here to view the Edward Weston advertisement.](#)



We have updated our website and created a new section for [Works by Various Artists](#). This page includes a wonderful variety of photographs. We will be posting new inventory on this page as it arrives at the gallery.

We again want to thank you for the feedback and wonderful responses. Your emails and calls mean the world to us and continue to motivate.

Many of you have also asked about accessing our previous emails. We have added a new page on our website entitled "[History of Photography](#)". All our past and future weekly mailings will be located there for viewing. Please feel free to share them and encourage interested parties to join our mailing list under "[contact](#)".

Thank you, please stay safe, healthy, productive, and involved.

Please visit our website www.photographydealers.com to view our current inventory.