

Straight Talk on Collecting Photography

The Contact Print

This week we are continuing our series on collecting photography. We have produced a series of videos along with added illustrations and handouts that can be viewed on our [website](#). We hope to cover many aspects that we feel are important to both beginning and seasoned collectors. The topics for the videos are a result of many conversations we have had in our gallery with visitors over the past forty years.

Today's video addresses the subject of the contact print, one of analog photography's finest expressions.

A contact print is one made directly from a photographic negative or paper negative placed directly onto a piece of photographic paper and exposed and developed. This 1:1 direct printing, is the purest expression of the negative, as opposed to an enlargement of the negative, which is also a beautiful expression, but one that exhibits some amount of loss of quality. Sharpness and tonal qualities are slightly sacrificed when we enlarge negatives to make prints, but for most photographers, those sacrifices are worth the impact of the larger print.

Few prints compare to the luminosity, beauty, and depth of a well-executed contact print.



We encourage you to visit our [YouTube](#) channel to view more of our videos.

Examples of Contact Prints



Ralph Steiner (1899 - 1986)
American Rural Baroque, 1929, printed 1980
Gelatin silver print
Image: 7 3/4 x 9 5/8"; Paper: 8 x 10"



Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946)
Equivalent, 1926
Vintage gelatin silver print
Image/Mount: 4 5/8 x 3 5/8"; Secondary mount: 13 1/2 x 10 5/8"



Nancy Newhall (1908 - 1974)
Alfred Stieglitz and Equivalents at an American Place, 1943
Vintage gelatin silver print
Image: 2 5/16 x 2 1/8"; Paper: 3 15/16 x 2 3/8"



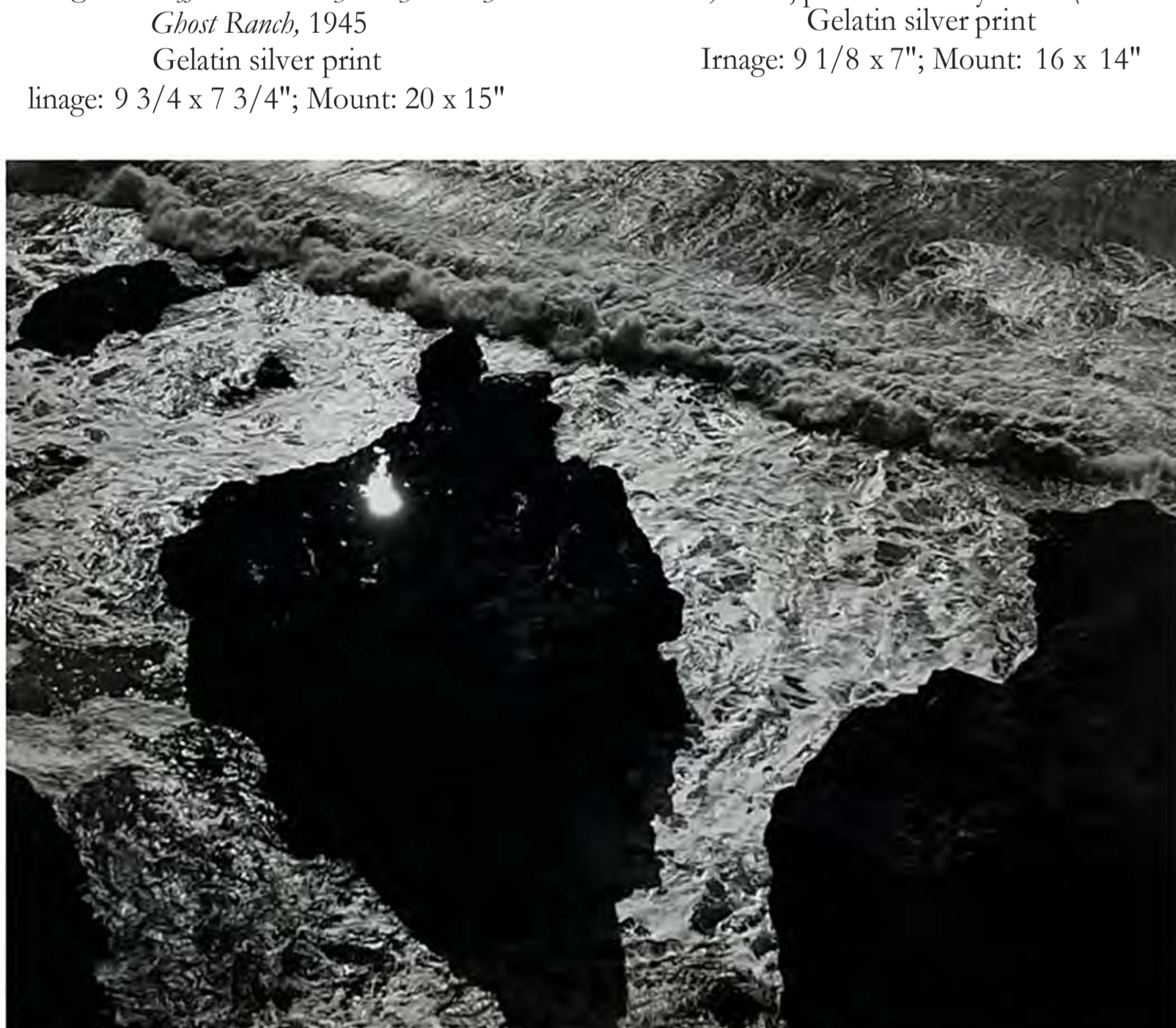
Beaumont Newhall (1908 - 1993)
Egypt (Clouds-diplych), 1944
Vintage gelatin silver prints
Images: 1 1/4 x 1 1/2"



Eliot Porter (1901 - 1990)
Georgia O'Keeffe with Bust by May Callye, Ghost Ranch, 1945
Gelatin silver print
Image: 9 3/4 x 7 3/4"; Mount: 20 x 15"



Edward Weston (1886 - 1958)
Neil, 1925, printed later by Cole Weston
Gelatin silver print
Image: 9 1/8 x 7"; Mount: 16 x 14"



Minor White (1908 - 1976)
Sun in Rock, 1947
Vintage gelatin silver print
Image: 3 5/8 x 4 5/8"; Mount: 10 x 8 1/8"



V. Villiard Van Dyke (1906-1986)
Taos Pueblo Ovens, 1933
Gelatin silver print
Image: 7 1/2 x 9 1/2"; Mount: 14 x 16 3/4"

We have updated our website and created a 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.

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

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

Please visit our website www.photographydealers.co.in to view our current inventory.