

Working Stiffs: Photographs from the Permanent Collection

Queens Museum of Art

May 16 – October 3, 2010

1. Alan Aaronson (American, dates unknown)
Her Killer Booked, August 26, 1956, 1956
Vintage gelatin silver print
New York Noir Crime Photos from the Daily News Archive;
Courtesy of New York Daily News, T2000.1.2
2. Berenice Abbott (American, 1898 – 1991)
Hot Dog Stand, 1936
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Grace Lacy, 1986.41.2
3. Berenice Abbott (American, 1898 – 1991)
Gwen MacCausland at her Printing Press, 1935-40
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2010.1.1
4. Anonymous
Loading the Fouchambault (cannon), 1884
Albumen print, mounted
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 1995.6.11
5. Anonymous
Making Baskets, Japan, 19th century
Hand-colored albumen print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 1999.8.58
6. Felice Beato (British 1832-1909 active 1855-1870s)
Hair Dressing in Japanese Style, 1870
Hand-colored albumen print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2010.1.4
7. Josef Breitenbach (American, born Munich, Germany, 1896 – 1984)
Construction Worker, India, 1960
Gelatin silver print
Gift of Peter C. Jones, 2003.7.2
8. Josef Breitenbach (American, born Munich, Germany, 1896 – 1984)
Mother and Child Near Jakarta, Java, 1960
Gelatin silver print
Gift of Peter C. Jones, 2003.7.3
9. Jack Clarity (American, dates unknown)

Death Threw a Strike, October 8, 1956, New York Daily News, 1956
Gelatin silver print
New York Noir Crime Photos from the Daily News Archive;
Courtesy of New York Daily News, T2000.1.1

10. Detrick (American, dates unknown)
Shot Teenager, August 22, 1961, 1961
Gelatin silver print
New York Noir Crime Photos from the Daily News Archive;
Courtesy of New York Daily News, T200.1.3

11. Peter Henry Emerson (British, 1856–1936)
Boatmen, ca. 1886
Vintage photogravure
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 1992.28.1

12. Roger Fenton (British, 1819 – 1869)
Lt. General Sir Henry Jones and Staff during the Crimean War, 1855
Vintage Albumen print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2010.1.5

13. Jean-Louis Garnell (French, 1954 -)
Cooking, n.d.
C-print
Gift of John Coplans, 1998.6.2

14. Herbert Gehr (American, 1910 -)
Greyhound Bus Driver, c. 1940s
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2008.60.1

15. Herbert Gehr (American, 1910 -)
Danger Explosives, 1938
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2005.31.16C

16. F.B. Grunzweig (Czech Republic, dates unknown)
Memorial Day Parade, 1974
Gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2006.14.108

17. F.B. Grunzweig (Czech Republic, dates unknown)
Israeli Soldiers at "Shrine of the Book," n.d.
Gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2006.14.90

18. Fritz Henle (German, 1909-1993)
U.S. Steel Gary Works, Gary, IN "Top Women," c. 1940s

Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Carole and Gordon Hyatt, 2002.9.46

19. Fritz Henle (German, 1909-1993)
**Clifford T. Sparks, an old-timer at Orange, Texas plant
U.S. Steel's Consolidated Western Steel Corporation, c. 1940s**
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Carole and Gordon Hyatt, 2002.9.58

20. Fritz Henle (German, 1909-1993)
**Holloway W. Smith, storeman at oil company field store, U.S.S.
Steel, Lake Charles, LA, fits a glove valve in an "Oilwell" store, c.1940s**
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Carole and Gordon Hyatt, 2002.9.52

21. Lewis Wickes Hine (American, 1874-1940)
Making Pittsburgh Stogies, Pittsburgh, 1909
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Walter and Naomi Rosenblum, 1982.4.1

22. Lewis Wickes Hine (American, 1874-1940)
Shucking Oysters, Pass Christian, MS, 1911
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Walter and Naomi Rosenblum, 1982.4.4

23. Lewis Wickes Hine (American, 1874-1940)
Working on Beam, Empire State Building, 1931
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Walter and Naomi Rosenblum, 1982.4.5

24. Dorothea Lange (American, 1895 – 1965)
Hoe Culture, Aniston, Alabama, 1936
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2003.9.21

25. Attributed to George Platt Lynes (American, 1907 – 1955)
**Gala and Dali working on Dream of Venus pavilion, New York
World's Fair Amusement Zone, 1939**
Vintage gelatin silver print
Museum purchase from the Jean Farley Levy and Julien Levy estate
and partial donation of Eric Strom, 2004.2.18

26. Reginald Marsh (American, born Paris, 1898-1954)
Life Guard, Coney Island, c. 1930s
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Chris Middendorf, 1984.5.2

27. Reginald Marsh (American, born Paris, 1898-1954)

Shoe Shine Near 9th, Union Square, Manhattan, c. 1940s

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Chris Middendorf, 1984.5.37

28. Reginald Marsh (American, born Paris, 1898-1954)

Man Getting Shave, c. 1940s

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Chris Middendorf, 1984.5.19

29. Harold Mathewson (American, dates unknown)

Abandoned metal wheel frames five monks, wearing customary brown habit, as they walk to work in the fields, Sunday News,

September 28, 1958, 1958

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2003.3.54

30. Pedro Meyer (Mexican, born Madrid, Spain, 1935-)

Grandma Guns, Yuma, Arizona, USA, 1984

35mm b/w negative

Museum purchase, 2008.18.19

31. Pedro Meyer (Mexican, born Madrid, Spain, 1935-)

Parakeet Man, Moscow, Russia, 2001

Original digital file

Museum purchase, 2008.18.54

32. Pedro Meyer (Mexican, born Madrid, Spain, 1935 -)

Tailor, Quito, Ecuador, 2002

Original digital file

Museum purchase, 2008.18.75

33. Arthur S. Mole and John D. Thomas (Mole, British born,

lived in Zion, IL, 1889 - 1983;

Thomas, American, dates unknown)

Living Insignia of the 27th Division "New York's Own" (Breakers of the Hindenberg Line) Formed of 10,000 Officers and Enlisted Men, Major-General John F. Ryan, Commanding, 1919

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2000.3.33

34. Arthur S. Mole and John D. Thomas (Mole, British born,

lived in Zion, IL, 1889 – 1983;

Thomas, American, dates unknown)

The Human H.S. Shield, 30,000 Officers and Men, Camp Custer, Battle Creek, MI, Brigadier

General Howard L. Laubach, Commanding, Chicago, 1918

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2000.3.34

35. Ch. Peeters (Belgian, dates unknown)
Public Service Department Street Cleaning with Water Apparatus, c. 1880
Albumen print, mounted
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 1995.6.22
36. Photographer Unknown (Lester & Associates)
Planting trees and shrubs on Panorama section, c. 1961
Gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2005.31.2
37. Photographer Unknown (Lester & Associates)
Laying out highway on Panorama section, c. 1961
Gelatin silver print
Anonymous donor, T2004.1.170AWF64
38. Photographer Unknown (Boyart Studio)
Heated words result from writing on hot plate in US Steel's Geneva Steel Plant, Geneva, Utah, c. 1940s
Scribes mark each plate with a number and designation where the plate is to be sent.
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2004.4.37
39. Photographer Unknown
Aerial Beauties, Barnum & Bailey Combined Circus, Atlanta, ca. 1940
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2004.4.55
40. Photographer Unknown
Artist's assistants installing mural at Silver Springs, MD, post office, c. 1940s. The painting is the work of Nicolai Cikovsky of Washington, DC, and shows the "Old Tavern" at Silver Springs, MD, during Civil War days.
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2006.14.50.2
41. Photographer Unknown
Romuald Knaus installed artwork, Ridgewood, NJ, P.O. Building, c. 1940s
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2005.31.44
42. Photographer Unknown
White Plains Road Paving Experiment, U.S. Tar and Steam Mixer, Oct. 21st, 1910, 1910

Vintage photogravure
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2000.3.13

43. Photographer Unknown (U.S. Air Force Official Photograph)
**Margaret Bourke-White while working on Strategic Air
Command story for LIFE, Biggs Air
Force Base, Texas**, c. 1940s
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2005.31.21

44. Photographer Unknown
One of 12,000, 1938
This hod carrier is one of 12,000 construction workers (now)
employed in building the fair into whose construction of
which will go 600,000 tons of materials.
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2005.31.14

45. Photographer Unknown
**Homestead Works of U.S. Steel, Munhall, PA Pouring white-hot
steel for the new Carnegie Institute of Technology's
Synchro-Cyclotron**, c. 1940s
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Carole and Gordon Hyatt, 2002.9.46

46. Dulce Pinzon (Resides in NYC, born Mexico, 1974-)
Wonder Woman, 2004-5
C-print, mounted
Gift of the artist, 2008.8

47. Sylvia Plachy (Resides NYC, born Budapest, Hungary, 1943-)
Santa Clones, 1979
Gelatin silver print
Museum purchase, 1995.3

48. Herbert Ponting (British, 1870-1935)
Japanese Girls Wrapping Tea in Pound Packages, c. 1912
Hand-colored albumen print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2001.1.22

49. Al Pucci (American, dates unknown)
Rex Harrison as Santa, 1948
Vintage gelatin silver print
Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2003.3.65

50. Aleksandr Rodchenko (Russian, 1891 – 1956)
Acrobat at Moscow Circus, 1940
Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 1999.8.44

51. Kitty Sang (American, dates unknown)

Jewish Basket Maker, c. 1950s

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2008.60.2

52. W. Eugene Smith (American, 1918-1978)

Albert Schweitzer Pouring Water from "A Man of Mercy," 1954

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2001.1.26

53. W. Eugene Smith (American, 1918-1978)

Worker's Back from "A Man of Mercy," 1954

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, 2003.9.24

Working Stiffs: Photography from the Permanent Collection has been organized by Louise Weinberg, Registrar/Archives Manager

The permanent collection of the Queens Museum of Art is constantly evolving through the generosity of several important donors including Grace Lacy, Chris Middendorf, Walter and Naomi Rosenblum, John Coplans, Peter C. Jones, and Carole and Gordon Hyatt. We are deeply grateful to Charles W. Schwartz, whose significant and thoughtful contributions over a period of thirty years help form, almost singlehandedly, a historical framework for the photography collection.



Arthur S. Mole (American, British born, 1889-1983)

John D. Thomas (American, dates unknown)

Living Insignia of the 27th Division "New York's Own" Breakers of the Hindenberg Line Formed of 10,000 Officers and Enlisted Men Major-General John F. Ryan, Commanding, 1919

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, (2000.3.33)
(illustrated)

Arthur S. Mole (American, British born, 1889-1983)

John D. Thomas (American, dates unknown)

The Human U.S. Shield, 30,000 Officers and Men, Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich., Brigadier General Howard L. Laubach, Commanding, 1918

Vintage gelatin silver print

Gift of Charles W. Schwartz, (2000.3.34)

These amazingly elaborate photographs by Mole & Thomas were created almost 100 years ago during World War I. Made without the benefit of computer-assisted technology by using a grid mounted on an 11 x 14" view camera, Thomas S. Mole invented what he called his "living photographs," painstakingly planned and composed over a period of days at army camps all around the country. Utilizing enlisted men and officers dressed in contrasting black and white uniforms; they posed in the sun often for hours, while Mole directed the composition from an 80-foot tower by waving a white flag and shouting instructions through a megaphone to his assistants who posed the participants on the grounds below.

Patriot subjects such as Uncle Sam, Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. flag, the Liberty Bell and American eagle, the U.S. Marines insignia and the Statue of Liberty, were portrayed in monumental compositions artfully composed of living human beings, anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 in number.

Made as an independent contribution to the war effort to solidify America's role in the conflict, no monies were taken in by the partners as payment for sold prints. Any funds collected were donated to the soldiers' families, and to the country's efforts to re-build itself and help reintegrate returning soldiers into non-military life.

Strangely surrealistic in tone, the compositions of these eminently recognizable images constantly shift between the individual portraits of the men in the foreground, to the totality of the image as the brain registers it in its entirety. Details of the army camps in the far background appear flamboyantly unrealistic and not unlike facades of movie sets.

Mole & Thomas's timeless compositions foreshadow the efforts of contemporary artists Vanessa Beecroft and Spencer Tunick whose installations of large numbers of participants (often nude) in public settings, pay homage to these earlier progenitors of the "living photograph," at once grand in scope and yet technologically modest in scale.

