

# snap shots

Volume 17 Number 1

September 2011

## ***Karen Torres: Pinhole Camera Adventures*** **September 11, 2011 — Americal Center, Wakefield, MA**



The September PHSNE meeting will feature speaker Karen Torres who will discuss a pinhole camera project for which she won the PHSNE award in 2010. She will also present images made with a six-sided pinhole

camera. “The work I did for the PHSNE competition prompted me to pursue more pinhole photography,” claims Torres, “and I will be showing that work as well.”

Torres attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado and then went on to pilot training. After serving over 21 years on active duty as an airlift pilot, she retired from service in 2002 and had the opportunity to focus on her love of art and photography. She first enrolled in classes at Honolulu Academy of Art’s Linekona Center, then earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in May, 2010. At the NHIA, she consistently appeared on the Dean’s List and received a Fuller Merit Scholarship. She will be teaching a continuing education pinhole class at NHIA in the fall.

Torres’s work as a photographer reflects her appreciation for traditional black and white film methods; her recent images made with a pinhole camera highlight travels in Ireland, Wyoming, and Colorado. She used a modified Kodak Brownie box camera and medium format film to capture a

series of twelve images. After developing the film, she scanned the negatives and digitally printed them on 4” x 6” Epson premium glossy photo paper. This small format invites further examination of the images which recall the early days of photography with their soft focus and vignetted corners. In the end, the series highlights her travels with historic precedent, while giving a nod to modern processing methods.

“My work reflects an appreciation for traditional black and white photography and the way light reacts with my subjects. Whether photographing people, abstracts or landscapes, my aim is always the same—to catch light at its most dramatic moment. I work in the studio and on location; and in each case, my challenge is to optimize the light in the scene to show my subject to its best advantage.”

Torres strives to achieve a full range of tones in her work. She prefers to shoot with available light, but also augments insufficient or unflattering light with flash and diffusers. She develops the film herself and then scans the images into the computer for digital enhancement.

### **PHSNE History Now on Website**

We’ve established a new history section on our Website at [phsne.org/archive/History](http://phsne.org/archive/History). The site contains a narrative of the founding, based on the 1974 *Directory*, contemporaneous documents and images, as well as articles from *The Journal* covering the first thirty years of PHSNE’s history.

Special thanks to the Founders and several past presidents for the contribution of materials and for discussing and reviewing the new History section.

~Joe Walters

## HOW MANY MP IS MY CAMERA?

Stopping at an antique shop on Route 1 along the Northeast coast, PHSNE member Paul Nisula found an unusual camera. With no format



When removed, lens and barrel turn into shot glass

obsolescence, it accepts the beverage of your choice regardless of proof or age. It has no flash, but it has its own flask, made in Sheffield, England.

Nisula enjoys his LCD (liquid container device) camera rated at 500 mp (milli-pints, not Megapixels). It "looks fine" in his barristers' bookcase, along with the rest of the collection.

~Photos and puns by Paul Nisula

## PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at [pnsne.org/paypal](http://pnsne.org/paypal) or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order.

Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

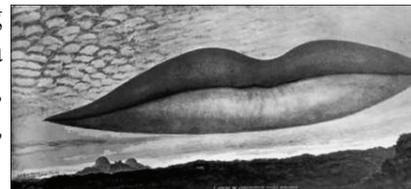
Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership@pnsne.org](mailto:membership@pnsne.org); or use the Web form at [pnsne.org/contacts](http://pnsne.org/contacts)).

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## LOVE, LUST, DESIRE, OBSESSION...ART

*Man Ray | Lee Miller, Partners in Surrealism*  
Peabody Essex Museum, through December 4<sup>th</sup>

At the center of modern art history is a love story between two artists who could not live with or without each other. The Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) presents *Man Ray | Lee Miller, Partners in Surrealism* featuring 76 works by two giants of the Surrealism movement and other renowned artists in their circle including Pablo Picasso, Dora Maar, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder, and Le Corbusier.



Commenting on the exhibition, PHSNE member Joe Walters said, "Two things struck me, aside from the overall work represented in the exhibition. One was the span of Lee Miller's life work. It ranged from being a fashion model for *Vogue* covers in the 1920s; a surrealist artist; fashion, fine arts, portrait, and commercial photographer; and photojournalist covering WWII and the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. Such a range in one life!

I was also struck by Man Ray's and Lee Miller's use of solarization, much more interesting than the somewhat "over baked" solarization one sees so often. The solarized portrait of Lee Miller to the left is an example of this. It has an certain classic look that strikes me as timeless."



Man Ray photo of Lee Miller

Despite the impact their relationship had on both artists, this will be the first exhibition ever organized that features Man Ray and Lee Miller together on equal terms. Lee Miller is regarded here as an artist and potent Surrealist force in her own right rather than a mere foil for Man Ray's work. Historically, Miller has been described as Ray's muse, but their love affair was in fact a key source of mutual and sustained inspiration which pushed the art of their time in a new direction.

Visit [pem.org](http://pem.org) for more information.

# World's Largest Private Collection of Kodak Cameras and Memorabilia

PHSNE member Ruud Hoff started collecting cameras and photographica in 1975, but after reading a biography of

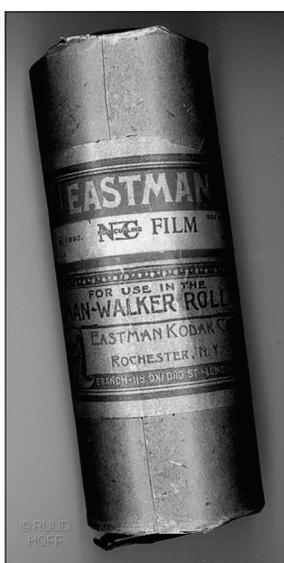
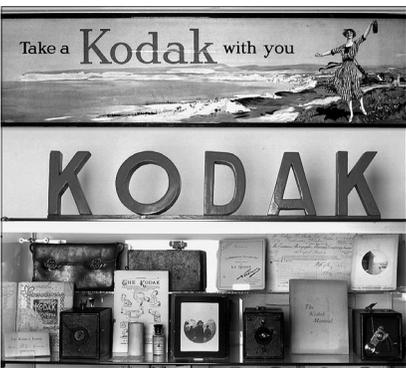


George Eastman, he became fascinated with the man and how he built his empire: "such an interesting story." Since then, Hoff's collecting has focused on Kodak. According to expert Jim McKeown, Hoff's is the largest private collection of Kodak cameras and related materials in the world.

The items in his collection number in the thousands. Hoff has every Kodak camera in production

several Olympic games. When, for example, he had to cover an afternoon soccer game in Madrid, the early morning hours would find him combing the flea markets.

Living in Europe, Hoff was able to attend many auctions in London (Sothebys, Christie's), sometimes ten times in a given year. He could



until the 1960's and all the instant cameras involved in the loss of legal suit to Polaroid, 47 in all. The collection also includes Kodak advertisements and promotion items. His fourteen display cases are full.

Hoff has lived in Amsterdam for over 60 years, and began collecting there. As a news photographer for



just hop on a plane in the morning and return in the evening. He still attends major shows in Europe including an annual Photo-

graphica in London and two shows per year in Holland.

After attending several Photographica events in the Boston area, Hoff became a PHSNE member in the late 1980's. He continues to participate in PHSNE Photographica shows regularly and also attends the photo symposiums held twice a year in Rochester, N.Y.



Hoff worked for the Dutch royal family, House of Orange, for five years and also for the Dutch government. Now retired, he is currently collecting photo types: daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, etc.



~See [ruudhoff.com](http://ruudhoff.com); photos from website

## Record Breaking Prices For Camera, Images

In May, 2011 a rare Leica #7 sold at auction in Vienna to an Asian collector for 1.3 million euros (US \$1.9 million), breaking the previous record of 732,000 euros for an 1839 daguerreotype camera and far exceeding pre-sale estimates of about 400,000 euros. The same camera was sold in 2007 for 336,000 euros, also a record at the time.



The following month, on June 18<sup>th</sup>, a Gustave Le-Gray seascape broke the record for an image, selling at auction in France to an American buyer for 917,000 euros (US \$1.305 million). LeGray was the photographer for Napoleon III.

Just days later, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, a 130 year-old tintype of Billy the Kid sold at auction in Denver for a whopping US \$2.3 million. The venue was Brian Lebel's 22nd Annual Old West Show & Auction in the Denver Merchandise Mart. The tintype was purchased by Willilam Koch, an American businessman and collector. Since tintypes show reverse images, people mistakenly thought Billy the Kid was left-handed.



### PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. at the Americal Center, 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m. Check [phsne.org](http://phsne.org) for changes and meeting updates.

### Upcoming meetings:

September 11—Karen Torres: Pinhole Camera  
October 2—Jim Chasse on Hasselblad  
November 5, 6—Photographica 76

### Driving directions to Americal Center:

I-95 to exit 39, North Ave. toward Reading/Wakefield (right turn on North from the south; left turn from the north). Drive approximately 1.5 miles, then turn left at Main St. Destination is on the left: 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880.

Parking available next door at the school, behind the building, and on Main St.

### Public transportation:

The Wakefield station of the Haverhill rail line is within 1/2 mile of the Center, and a bus line stops in front of the building. Details are available at [mbta.com](http://mbta.com).

### PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at [phsne.org](http://phsne.org). George Champine is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion moderated by Joe Walters; sign up and log in at [phsne.org/forum](http://phsne.org/forum). For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit [phsne.org/archive](http://phsne.org/archive).

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