

snap shots

Volume 19 Number 9

May 2014

Instant Connections:

Essays and Interviews on Photography

Jason Landry Discusses His Book

Sunday, May 4, 2014, 1:30 P.M.

The Woman's Club Workshop

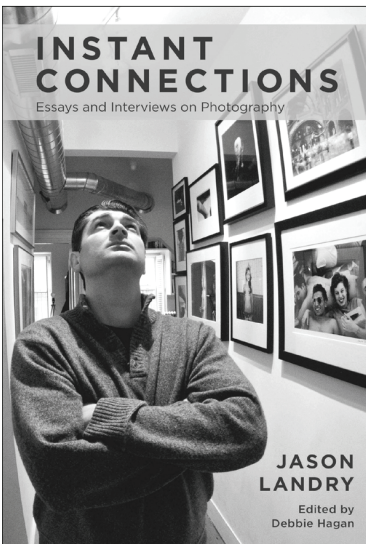
72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA

PHSNE Hosts Guided Tour

Paris Night & Day:

Photography Between the Wars

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 1:00 P.M.



Join author and Panopticon Gallery owner Jason Landry for a hearty conversation about Landry's new book, *Instant Connections: Essays and Interviews on Photography*.

Get an exquisitely entertaining peek from inside the darkroom to the outside white-walled world of photography. Through personal essays and interviews, the

speaker mixes his inspirational and humorous tales alongside his highlights and struggles, describing how networking, having mentors and making connections helped him shape his career in the arts.

Jason Landry is a writer, collector of images, and owner of Panopticon Gallery in Boston. He earned his B.F.A. in Photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and an M.F.A. in Visual Arts from The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. In 2013 he accepted the position of Director of the M.F.A. in Photography program at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and started blogging for the Huffington Post.

This is a singular display of work by the photographers who haunted Paris in the years between The Great War and the coming of the Nazi occupation. It is filled with wonderful and avant-garde images from the likes of Man Ray, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Jacques-Henri Lartigue, Ilse Bing, André Kertész, Bill Brandt, Lisette Model, Dora Maar, and Brassai.

Drawn from the collection of one family, this is not a traveling show and will not be available to the public after the exhibit ends in June. Professor Anderson, the curator of the exhibit, has graciously offered to give us a personal tour and speak about the collection and his work in putting the show together.



Champ-de-Mars from the Eiffel Tower
© Ilse Bing, 1931

Parking for the museum is available in the garage located just inside the main gate of the College, off Commonwealth Avenue. The top floor of the garage is often free when visiting the museum. Tell the guards at the gate that you are there for the McMullen Museum. The Green Line stops at the bottom of the hill.

For planning purposes, it would be helpful to notify Whitey Morange if you are coming; email president@phsne.org. If you're unable to join us, see the exhibit at your own convenience. It continues through June 8, 2014. Additional information is at bc.edu/gn-artmuseum.

Note return to Newton Highlands venue.

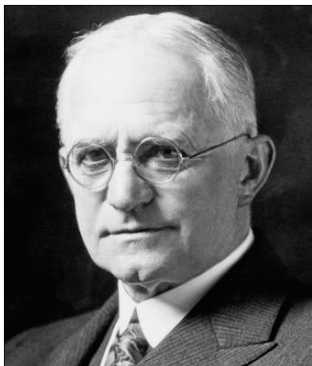
Driving directions are on p. 4.

***Photographica 81* will take place at the Americal Center in Wakefield, and special program sites will be announced.**

Announcing the President's Blog

Whitey Morange, PHSNE's President, has established a blog for items of member interest at phsne.org/presidentsblog. In Whitey's words: "I will be posting things in a different way here; less formal, more newsy and personal. The blog supports comments by readers, so come and join in the discussion of photo history!"

For Sale: One Business Park, 1200 Acres of Land, and George Eastman Gravesite



George Eastman, 1854-1932
Wikipedia.org

As part of its restructuring under Chapter 11, the Eastman Kodak Co. is selling off certain assets. Included in that list is the Eastman Business Park, a technology center and industrial complex that is currently home to fifty tenant companies.

The site is the former Kodak Park in Rochester, NY. In its heyday, according to Wikipedia, it was the largest

photographic product manufacturing facility in the world, employing more than 15,000 workers in more than 150 buildings. A few buildings were razed in 2007 as Kodak was downsizing. Kodak Park officially became "Eastman Business Park" on November 11, 2008.

One of the conditions of the sale will be appropriate upkeep of the memorial site which contains the ashes of George Eastman.

Thanks to long-time PHSNE member Nick Graver of Rochester for alerting us to this news item.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular 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 phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, 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@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

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Old Film Recalls Extinct Heath Hen

"No one seems to quite remember the date," according to an article by Carolyn Johnson in the March 7, 2014 *Boston Globe*, but some years ago



Stuffed specimen of the extinct
Heath Hen (*Typanuchus cupido*),
Boston Museum of Science
C. Horwitz

two canisters containing brittle, aging film that was at risk of spontaneous combustion were found stored at the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Faded tape with the words 'heath hen' was the only label."

There was speculation that the film could only be viewed once, if at all, and a decision was made to digitize it. "State officials think the 40-minute film may

be the only extant video footage of a game bird that was once so abundant that servants would ask to have written into their contracts a limitation on the number of times per week it could be served." In fact heath hens were so plentiful during colonial days that *Wikipedia* notes, "many have speculated that the Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving dinner featured heath hens and not wild turkey."

In the early 1900's, the last known heath hens, numbering only about 200, were in a preserve on Martha's Vineyard. Efforts to save the species failed. The population dwindled further and by 1929 there was only one male remaining.

The silent black and white film depicts the courtship dance of the heath hens; unfortunately, its call is lost forever. The digitized film was shown at a Mass Audubon Birders Meeting on March 8, 2014. Mathew Kamm, a Tufts University graduate student, also showed portions of it during a presentation. Quoted in the *Globe* article, Kamm said, "It's always kind of an emotional thing to watch an extinct species on film because on one hand you feel an enormous privilege . . . But on the other hand, you can't help but feel the loss."

To read the complete *Boston Globe* article, visit www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/03/07/long-extinct-heath-hen-comes-life-archival-film/X9zKEdB6dvH71Pt6rB2tFL/story.html.

Shekhina featured at Griffin Museum

Leonard Nimoy, best known as Spock in the original *Star Trek* series, is also a highly accomplished photographer. The press release issued by the Griffin Museum at Digital Silver Imaging in Belmont announces three concurrent exhibits of Nimoy's work: *Shekhina*, on display there through May 8th, *Secret Selves* in the Sherman Gallery at Boston University (through May 9th), and *Eye Contact*, at Gallery 55 in South Boston (through May 3rd). For additional information, see the full press release at griffinmuseum.org/blog/the-griffin-museum-at-digital-silver-imaging.



Shekhina
Photo by Leonard Nimoy

http://www.rmichelson.com/artist_pages/nimoy/pages/Shekhina.html.

The *Shekhina* project was featured in a book published in 2002. "A feminine word in Hebrew, Shekhina is the Talmudic term for the visible and audible manifestations of the Deity's presence on Earth. Over time, Shekhina came to represent much more — a softer, empathetic feminine counterpart to God who could argue for humanity's sake, comfort the poor and sick, and stand as the mother of Israel." Further exploration of Nimoy's experience and interpretation of Shekhina is available at http://www.rmichelson.com/artist_pages/nimoy/pages/Shekhina.html.

Leonard Nimoy grew up in the Boston area. His interest in photography goes back to his early teen years when he printed his images in a bathroom darkroom. He studied photography at UCLA.

Lowell Photography Weekend Takes Place May 17 and 18, 2014

Lowell Photography Weekend is a city-wide, multi-venue celebration of photography taking place in Lowell Massachusetts. Galleries, museums and businesses will be hosting a wide range of photographic exhibitions. While the length of each exhibition will vary, all will host artists' receptions on the same weekend. Receptions will be staggered so that the visitor has time to visit each venue and meet all the exhibiting photographers.

There will also be a raffle for a \$500 gift certificate to Hunt's Photo and Video! Raffle tickets may be obtained at each venue over the weekend of May 17 and 18. The drawing will take place at 10:00 am on May 19.



Headquarters,
Lowell National Historical Park
wikimediacommons.org

The many locations for this weekend event include the New England Quilt Museum, the American Textile History Museum, the Whistler House Museum of Art, Lowell National Historical Park, and a number of local art galleries and restaurants.

Lowell is about half hour's drive northwest of Boston. Additional details about the venues and events are at lowellphotographyweekend.com/about. For a very full and satisfying weekend of photography, we encourage you to experience the Lowell Photography Weekend on Saturday and join the special PHSNE tour of *Paris Night and Day* on Sunday (details on page 1).

Calumet Closes Doors

With no advance notice, Calumet Photographic closed its stores in the U.S. and filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy in March. Chapter 7 is filed when the company is about to liquidate. There is no plan to recover, unlike the chapter 11 filing one hears about more often in the news (for example, Eastman Kodak Co. is currently operating under chapter 11 and intends to emerge as a new entity).

The Chicago-based company opened its doors in 1939 and operated for seventy-five years. According to Calumet's facebook page, European stores would not be affected. PHSNE member Joe Walters writes, "Alas, the problem of losing local photographic outlets continues as the internet changes how we buy. It is getting difficult to go in and get the feel of new items. Also, this is a "pro" chain, with a rental department for pro gear and other pro oriented aspects, so one would have hoped they could have continued. Looks like online sites, e.g., lensrental.com, are taking this kind of business away from the locals as well."

How Did He Do It?

Today, with a bit of time and patience, the famous *Dali Atomicus* photo could be constructed using Photoshop. But how did Salvador Dali do it back in 1948? Wikipedia’s description of the photo (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Salvador_Dali_A_%28Dali_Atomicus%29_09633u.jpg) tells part of the story: “In 1941, American photographer Philippe Halsman met the surrealist artist Salvador Dalí in New York City and they began to collaborate in the late 1940s. The 1948 work *Dali Atomicus* explores the idea of suspension, depicting three cats flying, water thrown from a bucket, an easel, a footstool and Salvador Dalí all seemingly suspended in mid-air. The title of the photograph is a reference to Dalí's work *Leda Atomica*. . . . Halsman reported that it took 28 attempts to be satisfied with the result.”



Salvador Dali, 1948. Library of Congress

For a more detailed look, including a series of photographs, visit this very interesting website:<http://www.shootingfilm.net/2013/04/how-famous-dali-atomicus-photo-was-taken.html>.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

Field trip—date and details TBA

Driving directions to Woman’s Club Workshop:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St, right onto Lincoln St, and left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

MBTA, Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via Walnut Street exit. Go down Lincoln St (directly across Walnut) and turn right on to Columbus St. The Woman's Club Workshop will be to your right.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE’s Web site is at phsne.org. See the president’s blog at phsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and PHSNE history visit phsne.org/archive. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Address Service Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting Sunday, May 4, 2014, 1:30 P.M.
The Woman’s Club Workshop
72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA



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