

# snap shots

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## Patricia Fanning Presents *Artful Lives* at March 5<sup>th</sup> PHSNE Meeting Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton MA, 1:30 P.M.



Gertrude Kasebier  
 Blessed Art Thou Among Women,  
 Agnes Rand Lee and daughter Peggy  
 Cover of *Artful Lives*

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Author Patricia Fanning will present a program based on her latest book, *Artful Lives: The Francis Watts Lee Family and their Times*. Appearing in images by famed Pictorialists F. Holland Day and Gertrude Käsebier, Francis Watts Lee and his family hold a unique position in the history of American photography. Day created several remarkable photographs of Lee's daughters, Peggy and Alice, and the striking portrait of Peggy and her mother, poet Agnes

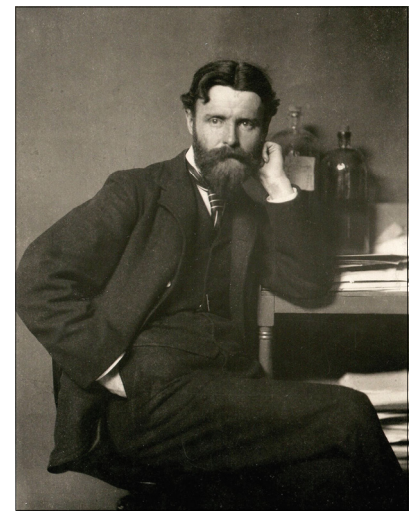
Rand Lee, titled *Blessed Art Thou among Women* is one of Käsebier's most iconic compositions. Using these and other well-known images as guideposts, the book explores the Lee family and its place in the art and culture of their age.

A social reform advocate, Francis Watts Lee was also an artistic photographer and a talented printer. He produced Boston Bohemia's periodical *The Knight Errant* and supervised the printing department of the Boston Public Library for decades. Sophisticated in mechanical and artistic processes, Lee

developed his own prints and was a leader among pictorialists in his techniques and manipulations. His interest in experimentation extended to photographic equipment as well, and his search for ways to create diffusion and control focus led Lee to become instrumental in the development of the Pinkham & Smith soft-focus lens, the first such lens made for pictorial photographers in the United States.

Utilizing previously unknown family archives and institutional sources, *Artful Lives* traces one family's successes and sorrows in the context of the Arts and Crafts movement, turn-of-the-century Christian Socialism and Aestheticism, and America's evolving conceptions of family, gender, childhood, medicine, deaf education, and mourning.

Patricia J. Fanning is a Professor of Sociology at Bridgewater State University. She earned both her Master's in American Studies and her PhD in Sociology from Boston College. Her research interests include medical sociology, Irish studies, local history, and the sociology of art. She has written several essays on the connections between the arts, primarily photography, and the wider American culture, and is the author of *Through an Uncommon Lens: The Life and Photography of F. Holland Day* (2008) and *Influenza and Inequality: One Town's Tragic Response to the Great Epidemic of 1918* (2010). *Artful Lives: The Francis Watts Lee Family and Their Times* (2016) is her third book published by the University of Massachusetts Press.



Gertrude Kasebier,  
 Portrait of Francis Watts Lee



F. Holland Day,  
 Portrait of Alice Stephana Lee

## Nikon Fetches \$406,000 at Auction



The oldest known Nikon camera sold for a record 384,000 British pounds, approximately \$406,000, at a Westlicht (Austria) auc-

tion late last year. Both seller, Japanese collector Tad Sato, and auctioneer were pleasantly surprised, since the pre-auction estimate was less than half that price.

As noted in a December 1, 2016 *petapixel* blog posting, the auction description stated, "The offered camera is one of two cameras made in April 1948 and the 3rd of all Nikon production cameras. It comes with the original early Nikkor-H 2/5cm no.70811 (this is the 11th lens made, with matching Nikon cap) and is still in fantastic original condition." The camera contains the original shutter. For the full posting, visit [petapixel.com/2016/12/01/oldest-known-nikon-camera-sold-whopping-409000-auction](http://petapixel.com/2016/12/01/oldest-known-nikon-camera-sold-whopping-409000-auction).

## PHSNE Membership

*New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year.* Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at [phsne.org/join](http://phsne.org/join) or [phsne.org/renew](http://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, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership@phsne.org](mailto:membership@phsne.org); or use the Web form at [phsne.org/contacts](http://phsne.org/contacts).)

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## EKTACHROME Returns—Will KODACHROME Follow?

The new year brought welcome news to film enthusiasts: in January, 2017 Eastman Kodak Company announced that they will manufacture Kodak Ektachrome film for motion pictures and still photography applications. The reformulated film will be available by the end of the year. The decision is a reaction to a renewed interest in film by still photographers and cinematographers alike



In its press release, the company noted that, "Kodak Ektachrome Film has a distinctive look that was the choice for generations of cinematographers before it was discontinued in 2012. The film is known for its extremely fine grain, clean colors,

great tones and contrasts." The film will be manufactured at Kodak's film factory in Rochester, New York, and the company will market and distribute the Super 8 motion picture film version directly.

"Kodak Alaris, an independent company since 2013, also plans to offer a still format Kodak Professional Ektachrome Film for photographers in 135-36x format. Kodak Professional Ektachrome Film is a color positive film, also known as 'reversal,' 'slide,' or 'transparency' film." See [tinyurl.com/gronhl7](http://tinyurl.com/gronhl7) for the full press release.



Though only a faint hope, Kodak is also looking into the possibility of bringing back Kodachrome. See [tinyurl.com/zkytxsn](http://tinyurl.com/zkytxsn) for more information and access to the podcast in which Chief Marketing Officer Steven Overman made the surprising announcements that were welcomed by lovers of Ektachrome and Kodachrome.

Ektachrome can be processed anywhere in the world, and even by advanced amateurs. Kodachrome was a highly specialized process requiring sophisticated equipment.

## Update on the 2016 Journal

Due to the increased size and complexity of the 2016 *Journal*, production has fallen behind schedule. Assuming fair winds, the Journal Team plans to have it in your hands by mid-March.



## Kodak Medalists: High Quality Cameras Used in WW II



In an online review, Colton Allen refers to the Kodak Medalist as “one of the more interesting cameras that Kodak ever made,” claiming it “is arguably the best American made camera that ever came out of Rochester N.Y.” ([filmshooterscollective.com/analog-film-photography-blog/kodak-medalist-camera-review-2-11](http://filmshooterscollective.com/analog-film-photography-blog/kodak-medalist-camera-review-2-11)). The original model, designed by Walter Dorwin Teague, was introduced in 1941 and put into immediate use by the U.S. Navy during WW II. The Medalist II made its debut in 1946.

Allen notes that, “One of the best features (photographically speaking) of the Medalist, is the superb Ektar 100/3.5 lens. The 100mm f/3.5 has 5 elements in 3 groups (Heliar type), and is often referred to as probably the best Heliar type ever made



for medium format.” The “unique design features [include] most notably the exposed focusing helicoids.”

Built of metal, glass, and leather,

the bulky rangefinder is heavy, but not when compared to comparable cameras. For example, the Medalist II is 5.5” x 4.4” x 4.8” and weighs about 1300 g (2.87 pounds), compared to the Fuji GW690 which is 7.4” x 4.6” x 4.8” and weighs 1430g (3.15 pounds).

The camera uses 620 roll film, 6 x 9 format, which is one of its few downsides. The format helped keep the price of the camera down, but 620 film was harder to obtain and the loading process is complicated. Medalists can be modified to use 120 film, but the process is very costly. Some users reroll 120 film onto 620 spools in a darkroom or film changing bag; other options are to locate, if possible, a source of modified 120 film (e.g., Blue Moon Camera in Portland OR), or order expensive rerolled film (from B&H or Adorama).

The Medalist II had a Flash Supermatic shutter, and lenses were coated on all surfaces. “The body, lens helical and housing, and the rangefinder housing are all solid die castings of special alloys, making it one of the sturdiest cameras ever built.”



Allen concludes, “Of all the cameras I’ve owned and used, the Medalist is one of the most interesting, coolest looking, and best built. As a photo making tool, it is exceptional. The 100/3.5 Ektar lens is capable of producing very high quality and unique images, and the build quality should ensure decades more of use. My camera is now nearly 70 years old, and working perfectly.


The design is beautiful. The exposed helical on the lens barrel, the centered viewfinder and rangefinder windows, the distance scale that turns as you move the focus, the big cast strap lugs, the big stepped viewfinder and rangefinder housing, the deep body, all work together beautifully to create a work of functional art.”

To Allen, the Kodak Medalist cameras represent “a pinnacle of American camera design and manufacturing, and if you like and use old cameras you should definitely try to find a Medalist.”

~Photos by Lew Regelman

## Growing Old Before Your Eyes

While women stereotypically try to keep up a youthful appearance, 53 year old Gillian Wearing used sophisticated software to picture herself as she expects to age through age 70. *Rock'n'Roll 70*, on display at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston presents a wall of photos, all of Wearing, at various life stages and in poses ranging from flirtatious to grandmotherly.

  
Institute of Contemporary Art,  
Boston

In a triptych in the center of the wall, there is a current photo of Wearing, one as she might look years from now, and a blank for an actual photo of Wearing when she turns 70.

Winner of the Turner Prize, Wearing is a British artist who creates videos and photography-based installations. *Rock'n'Roll 70* is the culmination of a project lasting several years. See [tinyurl.com/z47y94s](http://tinyurl.com/z47y94s) for a *Boston Globe* preview and description of the exhibit.

### PHSNE Eligible for *Boston Globe* Grant Funds

The *Boston Globe's* GRANT program donates advertising space in the newspaper to non-profit organizations. If you are a *Globe* subscriber, you have been credited with GRANT Dollars as a voucher to vote for your favorite 501(c)(3) organization. The 2017 GRANT Program will be announced in late February. Please visit [bostonglobe.com/grant](http://bostonglobe.com/grant) upon receiving the announcement and vote your grant voucher to PHSNE.

### PHSNE Meetings

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

#### Upcoming meetings:

**SATURDAY, April 8**—*Photographica 86*, an image and equipment trade show, American Legion Post, Newton MA. See [phsne.org](http://phsne.org) for more information.

#### Driving directions to Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus Ave., Newton Highlands MA:

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 (#72) 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:

See [mbta.com/rider\\_tools](http://mbta.com/rider_tools)

#### Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE's Web site is online at [phsne.org](http://phsne.org). See [facebook.com/phsne](https://facebook.com/phsne) for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit [phsne.org/archive](http://phsne.org/archive) for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snapshots* e-copy, email newsletter, and *Photographica* show announcements. Sign up at [phsne.org/emails](http://phsne.org/emails).

## Online Sites of Interest

<https://petapixel.com/2017/01/14/take-harvards-free-online-12-module-digital-photo-course/>

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/scholar-revives-antiquated-media-machines-for-digital-age-audiences> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6q3vUj8Z5A> - media archaeology based on magic lantern

<https://www.marketplace.org/2016/08/31/tech/disappearing-jobs/instagram-there-were-daguerreotypes> - complexity of daguerreotypes vs. instagram; includes video interview

<http://blogs.loc.gov/now-see-hear/2016/11/photo-blog-12-reel-mysteries/> - asks for help identifying performers in obscure films

<http://www.photoreview.org/wordpressindex/> - photo journal founded in 1976