

Platinum and Palladium Photography Related Events

In celebration of the Platinum and Palladium Photographs Symposium, Workshop, and Tours, six Washington, DC and Tucson, Arizona institutions have worked to create exhibitions highlighting platinum and palladium photographs:

The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution
Indelible: The Platinum Photographs of Larry McNeil and Will Wilson
June 7, 2014–January 15, 2015

<http://www.nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=943>

By the end of the 19th century, the platinum print process was of primary importance to art photographers—valued for its permanence, wide tonal variation, and “fuzzy” aesthetic. Photographers such as Edward S. Curtis, Gertrude Käsebier, and Joseph Keiley famously printed their photographs of North American Indians on platinum paper, using the prints’ highly romanticizing softness to represent the “Vanishing Race.”

Larry McNeil (Tlingit/Nisgaá) and Will Wilson (Diné/Bilagaana) challenge this visual ideology. McNeil uses the platinum process to topple expectations of what constitutes the Native portrait and, more generally, Western conceptions of portraiture. Wilson creates portraits of “today’s Indians” on metal plates, then digitizes the plates, makes large-scale digital negatives from the scanned images, and uses historic printing processes in a wet darkroom—calling attention to the manufactured nature of all photographic images.

National Gallery of Art

A Subtle Beauty: Platinum Photographs from the Collection
October 5, 2014 – January 4, 2015

<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2014/subtle-beauty.html>

With a velvety, matte surface and extraordinary tonal depth, the platinum print played an important role in establishing photography as a fine art during the last decades of the 19th century. This exhibition of some 25 photographs will showcase outstanding platinum prints from the period of the 1880s to the 1920s, including works by Peter Henry Emerson, Frederick H. Evans, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Clarence White, Gertrude Käsebier, and other major figures.

The Library of Congress

Platinum Photographs: Printing with a Noble Metal
October 20 – November 8, 2014

<http://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/>

Twenty photographs by Pictorialist practitioners of platinum/palladium photography will be featured in a display highlighting the beauty and variety of platinum printing. The photographers include F. Holland Day, Clarence H. White, Alfred Stieglitz, Frederick H. Evans, Gertrude Käsebier, Joseph T. Keiley, Mathilde Weil, Karl Struss, and Amy Whittemore. The display features multiple prints from the same negative; platinum/palladium variants such as gum, split-toning, and multiple exposure, and the

influence of Japanese prints on platinum photography. The photographs will be in view in the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, South Gallery 1st Floor (near Information Desk).

The National Portrait Gallery

The NPG has installed a selection of eight platinum print portraits of notable American women from its collection, accompanied by wall text about the platinum process. The photographs are on view in the museum's third floor gallery:

20th-Century Americans: 1900-1930.

<http://www.npg.si.edu/>

The subjects and photographers include:

Fanny Brice by Alfred Cheney Johnston

Gertrude Käsebier by Baron Adolph de Meyer

Julie Ward Howe by Alice Boughton

Katharine Nash Rhoades by Alfred Stieglitz

Emma Goldman by Margrethe Mather

Frances Benjamin Johnston by Gertrude Käsebier

Alice Roosevelt Longworth by Edward Sheriff Curtis

Phoenix Art Museum

Norton Gallery

All that Glitters Is Not Gold: Platinum Photography from the Center for Creative Photography

November 1, 2014 to March 1, 2015

<http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/allthatglitters>

Gold – one of the most precious metals – is often considered the standard by which other valuables are compared. In photography however, many consider the platinum process to be the most exquisite and luxurious. Expensive to produce platinum prints are coveted for the luscious surface texture, subtle range of tones, delicate rendering of the image, and beautiful colors (from a cool, slate grey to rich, warm browns).

Phoenix Art Museum

Orme Lewis Gallery

PLATINUM: Contemporary Photography

January 10 to April 1, 2015

<http://www.phxart.org/>