



Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University

Press Release

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Captivating Photographs at Colgate's Picker Art Gallery **Photos from the 19th and 20th centuries help recall photography's past**

Hamilton, N.Y. For the first time in decades, the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University is presenting highlights from Colgate's unique collections of photographs, showcasing rarely seen masterpieces of the past as well as recent acquisitions of contemporary work. Currently on view are two exhibitions: *Remember? Photographs Before Digitization* and *Edward Curtis: Photogravures from 'The North American Indian.'* *Temple & Tomb: Art of Ancient China* from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation continues as well.

Remember? Photographs Before Digitization reminds contemporary viewers of the allure of original photographic prints produced by laborious processes in the darkroom. The exhibition, offering an overview of art photography in Colgate University's holdings, includes daguerreotypes, albumen prints, silver gelatin prints, and experimental photographs from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, with an emphasis on the 1960s-80s. Canonical masters such as Eugène Atget, Berenice Abbott, Claude Cahun, Brett Weston, and Lee Friedlander are among the artists represented. The exhibition demonstrates how each photograph, by tracing light, embraces its roles both as a record of the visible world and of artistic expression.

Twenty photogravures from Colgate's Special Collections Library are featured in *Edward Curtis: Photogravures from 'The North American Indian.'* The photos demonstrate the range of tribes and geographical areas that Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) studied for *The North American Indian*, 20 volumes and portfolios of photographs and writings that he published between 1907 and 1930. Curtis hoped "to form a comprehensive and permanent record of all the important tribes of the United States and Alaska that still retain to a considerable degree their ... customs and habits." His work has often been criticized, however, for romanticizing and re-staging the past. In conjunction with this exhibition, *Coming to Light*, an award winning movie by Anne Makepeace that features Native American responses to Curtis' photographs, is continuously screened in the gallery.

The Picker Art Gallery is located in the Charles A. Dana Arts Center on Lally Lane (just off 12B), on the Colgate University campus in Hamilton, NY. The gallery hour is open through June Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. It is closed major holidays. For more information, call 315-228-7634 or visit www.pickerartgallery.org.