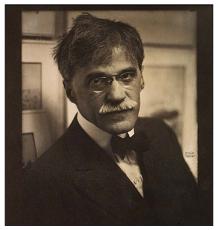
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HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HISTORY

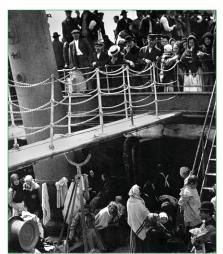
History of Alfred Stieglitz and The Camera Club of New York Information provided by: Jewish Virtual Library, A Division of the American-Isreali Cooperative and The Camera Club of New York



Alfred Stieglitz (January 1, 1864 - July 13, 1946) was an American photographer who was instrumental in the acceptance of photography as an art form alongside painting and sculpture. He used The Camera Club as a forum and venue to convince a still skeptical public that photography was an art worthy of comparison to painting. The club was the largest and wealthiest in the County at its time. Later, as the medium matured, the Club was again the place where the new "Straight photography" approach would emerge.



In addition to his photography, Stieglitz is known for the New York art galleries, photography clubs and publications that he ran in the early part of the 20th century, where he introduced man avant-garde European artists to the U.S. He was married to painter Georgia O'Keeffe.



Alfred Steiglitz's groundbreaking publication, Camera Notes, documented the Club's activities while advocating for the inclusion of photography in the catalog of fine arts. He advanced this position by exhibiting photographs in his revolutionary gallery "291", alongside the work of modernist painters and sculptors. Some of his important images, including his "Equivalent" series moved photography into the realm of abstraction, further bolstering his claim. Having a prestigious reputation, the Camera Club was often seen as a venue for introducing new advances and techniques in the photographic sphere. The autochrome process (an early form of color photography), as well as X-Ray photography was vetted at the Club in their infancy, and as cameras and photographic chemistry evolved, corporate representatives or Club members brought new products to the attention of Club members.

Through the years, many of photography's great names have passed through the Club's doors, either as members or lecturers, including Edward Steichen, Paul Strand, Gertrude Kasebier, Berenice Abbott, Richard Avedon, and photographic historian, Beaumont Newhall.

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HISTORY OF ALFRED STIEGLITZ AND THE CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club of New York at 3-7 West 29th Street

