

snap shots

Volume 14 Number 1

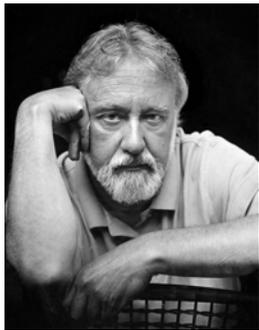
September 2008

SIZE MATTERS

Ultra large format photography is the topic for Sept. 7

PHSNE's meeting topic for the first meeting of the new program year is a big one: ultra large format photography.

On September 7 Gary Samson, Chair of the Photography Department at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, NH, will demonstrate the equipment he uses for his own ultra large format work — 12x20 and 11x14 Wisner cameras, with appropriate lenses, film holders and accessories — and talk about his procedures for developing and printing his images.



Beverly Conway

Gary Samson

Gary will also discuss the history of ultra large format photography and photographers — such as the great western landscape photographers Carle-



Photograph by Gary Samson

"James Aponovich in his studio, Manchester, NH, 2004" from a 12x20-inch negative made with a Wisner camera by Gary Samson.

ton Watkins and Timothy O'Sullivan — who worked with very large format cameras and plates.

Gary's own ultra large format work is included in numerous public and private collections including the Currier Museum of Art, the University of New Hampshire and the National Archives.

This fall Gary will be on sabbatical in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia making black and white landscape photographs with the 12x20 camera for inclusion in a forthcoming book on Cape Breton.

Gary, a graduate of Boston's Franklin Institute, worked for many years at the University of New Hampshire and took his present position in 2001.

Photographica Is Early This Fall, So Get Involved Now!

By Marti Jones, PHSNE President

Now that summer has come and gone and we were able to visit with family and friends, barbecue, and maybe even find new cameras for our collections, it's time for all of us in PHSNE to pick up where we left off last spring!

I cannot stress enough the importance of members' efforts that keep PHSNE going. We are an ALL VOL-

UNTEER organization. Now that it is almost fall, let me take an opportunity to let you know how you can get involved.

Sept. 27-28 is Photographica 70 at the Americal Center in Wakefield, MA. We need people to help Friday afternoon and evening with setting up tables and chairs, preparing dealer packets, and ensuring we're ready to

Continued on Page 3

Shows and Exhibitions Around New England

"*Karsh 100: A Biography in Images*" at the **Museum of Fine Arts** in Boston is a centenary celebration of Yousuf Karsh. Karsh became synonymous with iconic portraits of the world's most distinguished statesmen, artists, literary figures, musicians, scientists, and actors. The exhibition also includes lesser-known images from his early years in Canada and pictorial work done on assignment in the 1950s. Opening September 23 and continuing through January 19, 2009. (MFA, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA, phone 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org.)

"*André Kertész: On Reading*" at **The Portland Museum of Art**. This series of 104 photographs taken around the world over a 50-year period by André Kertész on the theme of reading as at once a very public act and very private pleasure. The images (from the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago) balance geometric composition and playful observation, and demonstrate why Kertész's work has so heavily influenced photography as an artform. August 30, 2008 through November 16. (PMA, Seven Congress Square, Portland, ME, 207-775-6148, www.portlandmuseum.org.)



© Courtesy Estate of André Kertész/Higher Pictures 2007

"Carnival, Paris" (1926) is one of the images in "André Kertész: On Reading" at the Portland Museum of Art that examine the simultaneously public and private nature of the act of reading.

"*The Allure of Italy: Photography, Fashion, and Design since 1945*" at the **Fitchburg Museum** focuses on Italy's artistic, cultural, and industrial rebirth in post-war Europe through creative and technological innovations in three forms: photography, fashion, and design. The exhibition, curated by Kristina Durocher and PHSNE member Stephen B. Jareckie, includes works by native and non-Italian photographers that span 60 years. October 5 to January 4. (Fitchburg Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg, MA, 978-345-4207, www.fitchburgartmuseum.org.)

"*America and the Tintype*" at New York's **International Center for Photography** chronicles a ubiquitous form of 19th-century photography. Introduced in 1856, tintypes quickly became the cheapest and most popular photographic medium, and the tintype studio became a kind of performance space where sitters could act out their personal identities, displaying the tools of their trade, costumes, toys, and props of all sorts. The exhibition includes more than 150 tintypes drawn from the ICP's collection. September 19, 2008–January 4, 2009. (ICP, 1133 6th Ave., New York, 212-857-0000, www.icp.org.)

Leonard Steinhart, Subminiature Specialist

Leonard Steinhart, a very knowledgeable subminiature specialist and long-time fixture at PHSNE's Photographic shows, died May 30 of complications following emergency surgery while on vacation in Spain. He was 85 and lived in Mohegan Lake, NY.

Leonard was a navigator during World War II and retired as a colonel from the Air Force Reserves. He operated a manufacturing business for more than 50 years.

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign membership. Please send checks in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar-denominated international money orders for dues payments.

Current members can read their renewal date from the mailing label on snap shots. For example, "2007.12" means your membership expires in December of 2007. Please check your label before sending in your dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joseph B. Walters Jr., P.O. Box 137, Belmont, MA 02478 (phone: 617-694-5594; email: membership@phsne.net, or use the Web form at www.phsne.net/contacts).

snap shots, edited by David DeJean, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Send news briefs to ddejean@dejean.com.

A Rollfilm How-To for the December Program

Are you scratching your head over your entry for the December program, wondering how, exactly, you're going to shoot rollfilm, first of all, and get it processed? And, second of all, how are you going to use an American-made camera when you can't even buy 620 film, which is what most American-made rollfilm cameras take? And, third of all, who came up with this idea for a program?



The program will be a digitally projected show of images shot on rollfilm using American-made cameras. Participants may submit up to six images.

Taking the last question first, the idea is Paul Nisula's. Paul is also the photographic patriot who came up with the Great American 35mm program in December 2006, that required the use of Made-in-USA 35mm equipment.

So, first question, what's Paul going to do about his entry? "I'm all done," he said recently. He shot slide film, he said, and used three different cameras.

How did he get his film processed? "I've been using slide film and processing it at Walmart. They send it to Fuji, and Fuji may or may not send it to Dwayne's somewhere in the Midwest. But I pay \$4.88 and the results are immaculate, no scratches, no smudges, it's just great."

You do have to give specific instructions, said Paul: "Write on the envelope 'Process E6, do not cut, do not mount, put in sleeves.'"

Paul was equally specific about the cameras you can use. They should be American-made, body, shutter, and lens. "Some of the early Kodak folders took 120 film," he said. "And there were 120 box cameras — I used an Ansco made in 1929, but you have to get an Ansco, not an Agfa-Ansco." He mentions a couple of Kodak 620

cameras that can take 120 film respooled onto 620 reels — the Tourist Model 2, and what sounds like his personal favorite, the Kodak Medalist: "That was a fabulous professional camera," Paul said, "but only 620. You could get it converted to 120, but it would cost \$300, and it's only a \$200 camera."

There is also the Speed Graphic: it's a sheet-film camera, but you can use the roll-film adapter. And the mention of Graphic reminded Paul of the Graflex 22. It was actually a Ciroflex, he said, and there were some other qualifying Ciro models, too. And not to forget the Simon Omega (but not the Koni Omega or the Rapid Omega, which weren't made in the USA). Check McKeown's Price Guide to find more candidate cameras advised Paul. "The prices may be out of date, but the information is very good."

Submissions for the December program must be made by the November meeting.



Photograph by David DeJean

One way to do it: here's a roll of 120 rollfilm in an American-made camera — a Kodak Auto-graphic No. 1 Junior. While other models of the Auto-graphic used larger film sizes, the No. 1 takes eight 2 1/4x3 1/4 negatives on standard 120 film..

Photographica Is Early This Fall, So Get Involved Now

Continued from Page 1

go for Saturday a.m.

On both Saturday and Sunday, we need volunteers, even if it is for an hour of your time, to sell tickets at the front door or sit at the membership table and provide information on our organization to those who are interested. Behind the scenes, and weeks ahead of time, we need volunteers to help promote the show with press.

You, as a member, are a valuable part of our organization. New members, old members, we welcome all to as-

sist. On the first Sunday of each month, we hold our regularly scheduled meeting. Normally these are held at Waltham High School but always check the Web site, www.phsne.org, to make sure of the time and location.

If you know someone who may be interested in learning more about our organization, why not bring them along to a meeting so they can see what we're all about. We encourage you to bring guests.

Please call me personally at 603-860-7411 or email me at marti0727@comcast.net if you can be of assistance to PHSNE. I look forward to hearing from YOU!

Buy/Sell/Trade Board on PHSNE.NET

A new board, "For Sale, For Trade, Wanted", has been added to the PHSNE Forum as a place for PHSNE members to buy and sell photographica items. While any visitor to the site can read these postings, only registered Forum members can post notices on this board.

The forum is at "www.phsne.net/forum" and the new board can be directly reached at "http://www.phsne.net/forum/index.php?board=37".

You can have the forum software automatically notify you of new topics or replies on a board, either by email or via an RSS news reader. For help see the tip posted at "http://www.phsne.net/forum/index.php?topic=57".

Rock Concert Films Boost 3D Revival

The renaissance of 3D motion pictures has gotten a boost from the youth market. Two filmed versions of live pop music concerts have been released in recent months. *Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert* stars Miley Cyrus, who plays Hanna Montana in the TV series of the same name. *U2 3D*, shot in digital 3D, stars the Irish rock band U2. The U2 film gets higher marks for artistry, but *Hanna/Miley* has been pulling in bigger crowds.

The boom in 3D films began with Imax 3D travelogues to the bottom of the sea and outer space, and grew with successful 3D releases of computer-animated films like *Polar Express*. It is being boosted by the trend toward big-screen digital projection: 3D feature films like *Journey to the Center of the Earth* are best experienced at a theater equipped for digital projection.

PHSNE Meetings

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

October 5 — Gordon Brown: "Photography BC to AD (Before Computers to After Digital)"

November 2 — Reflections on Jack Naylor

December 7 — Rollfilm Shootout projected show

Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington St., Waltham, MA. The high school is at the top of the hill, behind other school buildings.

From I-95 (Route 128) Northbound: Take Exit 27 and follow Totten Pond Rd. 1.2 miles east until it dead-ends into Lexington St. Turn left and go .5 miles north. Turn right into the school complex.

From I-95 (Route 128) Southbound: Take Exit 28, Trapelo Rd., east 1.3 miles to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 miles to school complex on the left.

From Boston/Cambridge: Take Rte. 2 west to Exit 54B, then Lexington St. south 1.7 miles to school complex on the left.

From Lincoln and West: Take Route 2 east to Exit 53, Concord Ave. Go east 1 mile, then right onto Lexington St. and 1.3 miles south to school complex on the left.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at www.phsne.org. Ralph Johnston is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion: sign up and log in at www.phsne.net/forum, moderated by Joe Walters. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit www.phsne.net/pubs.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Service
Requested

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, September 7:
"Gary Samson on Ultra Large Format"



PHSNE
P.O. Box 650189
West Newton, MA

snap
shots