

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60603, U. S. A.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexander Gardner's "Breaking Camp," (1865) and Gertrude Kasebier's "Portrait of Rodin," (1902), are two of seventy photographs in the exhibition, PHOTOGRAPHY BEFORE 1914 at the Art Institute from August 3 through September 29, 1968.

Gardner's photograph, "Breaking Camp," is one of one hundred original prints in the Photographic Sketch Book of the War, a collection of some of the finest photographs of the conflicts of the American civil war. Of the volume, author Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "It is so nearly like visiting the battlefields to look over these views that all the emotions excited by the actual sight of the strained and sordid scene, strewn with rags and wrecks, came back to us, and we buried them in the recessions of our cabinet as we would have buried the mutilated remains of the dead they too vividly represented."

Miss Kasebier, a member of the Photo-Secessionist group, was a promoter of "straight-photography." She did not believe that by manipulating the original negative to achieve desired effects a true art form was created. Some critics found the works of the Photo-Secessionists esthetically pleasing, while others thought it was an imitation of painting, "to hold as it 'twere, a smoked glass up to nature." Of this movement Miss Kasebier said: "Who has educated the public to a false standard in photography? Who sanctions the painted background, the papier-mache accessories, the high-backed chair, the potted palm, the artificial flowers in the studio?

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There is one prominent photographer in New York who never needs sign his productions for the sake of identification. The same Turkish cushion, the same muslin rose, appears in all his photographs of society women...."

Organized by Hugh Edwards, the Art Institute's Curator of Photography, the show features works from the mid-nineteenth century through 1914. Many of the prints which were acquired by the Art Institute during the past two years will be on view for the first time.

The exhibition opens in conjunction with the 77th Annual International Exposition of Photography at the Conrad Hilton Hotel from August 4 through 9.

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Photographs available on request.