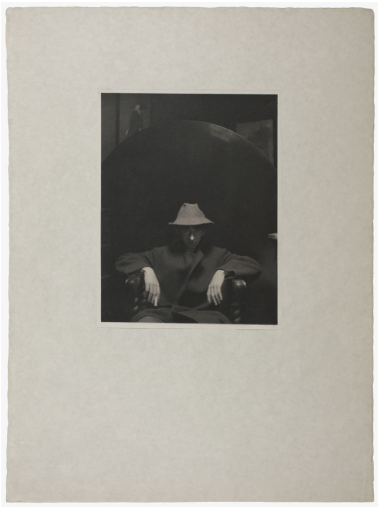

Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864–1946) and Edward Steichen (American, born Luxembourg, 1879–1973) printed by Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864–1946)

John Marin

1910
Platinum print
Alfred Stieglitz Collection

AIC accession number: 1949.712

Stieglitz Estate number: 34B

Inscriptions: Unmarked recto; inscribed verso, on second mount, lower left, in graphite: "34B"

Dimensions: 23.7 x 18.3 cm (image/paper); 24.6 x 19.1 cm (first mount); 50.5 x 37.8 cm (second mount)

Print thickness: N/A

Surface sheen: Low gloss (8.7 GU @ 85°)

Paper tone: N/A

Mount: Original

Mount tone: L*74.31, a*0.05, b*6.97

Ultraviolet-induced (UV) visible fluorescence (recto): None

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry:
See below

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometry:
N/A

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This photograph is a platinum print on thin trimmed paper. It is adhered at all corners to its original mount: a light gray paper slightly larger than the print, which is in turn mounted to a larger mottled green paper with deckled edges. There is an inscription in graphite, "34B," on the back of the mount, which correlates to the estate or "Leica" number that Georgia O'Keeffe and Doris Bry assigned to mounted prints from the same negative that were in Stieglitz's possession at the time of his death. When the surface of the print is viewed under high magnification, the fibers from the paper are visible, and the image sits directly on the fibers, with no intermediary binder. The print does not fluoresce when exposed to long-wave UV radiation. Platinum, iron, lead, and trace amounts of mercury were detected using XRF spectrometry. Common to platinotypes, the residual presence of light-sensitive iron ions could be due to improper washing of the print after processing. The presence of lead could have two sources: while lead could have been used during fabrication of the photographic paper itself, it was also commonly used during the processing of platinum prints, to increase uniform development. The presence of mercury could be the result of the artist's use of mercuric chloride during processing, to increase contrast.

X-RAY FLUORESCENCE (XRF) SPECTROMETRY

XRF spectral readings were taken from the recto of the work and from the mount when available. The elements listed below have been positively identified in the work; elements in bold have been attributed to the processing of the print.

Print: **Fe**, **Pt**, Hg, Pb

Mount: Ca, Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Sr

The graph below shows XRF spectra for three distinct measurement areas on the print: the darkest, maximum-density image area (Dmax, purple); the lightest, minimum-density image area (Dmin, green); and the mount, when available (orange). The background spectrum (gray) represents the characteristic contribution of the instrument itself as measured on a Teflon reference and is included in order to discount irrelevant elements from the print's signature. Elements were identified based on the presence of their characteristic peaks. Analysis was performed with a Bruker/Keymaster Tracer III-V+ energy-dispersive handheld XRF analyzer, equipped with changeable Ti and Al filters and a Rh transmission target. Measurements were taken for 120 or 180 LT at 40 kV and 10 µA. The spectrum below illustrates the significant peaks for this print in the energy range from 2 to 15 keV.

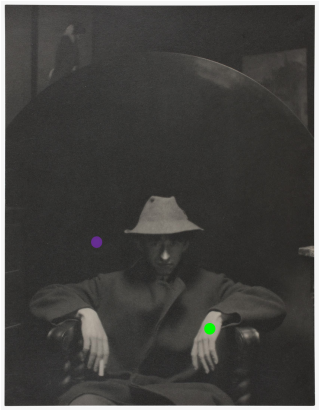

Figure 1. (right)
Locations of XRF measurements

Figure 2. (below)
XRF spectra from the Dmax, Dmin, mount, and background signal produced by the analyzer.