

Artist Resources – Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864-1946)

[Alfred Stieglitz Collection and Archive, Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[The Key Set Stieglitz Collection, National Gallery of Art](#)

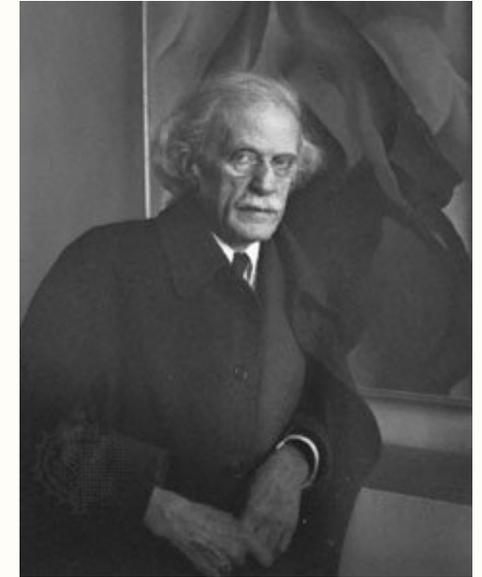
[Stieglitz at The Getty](#)

[Stieglitz and *Camera Work* collection, Princeton University Art Museum](#)

Explore [The National Gallery’s timeline of all known Stieglitz exhibitions](#), spanning from 1888 to 1946.

[View archival documents from MoMA’s 1947 exhibition](#), which comprised two floors and paired Stieglitz’s photography with his private art collection. The following year, MoMA introduced [Photo-Secession \(American Photography 1902-1910\)](#), organized by surviving co-founder Edward Steichen and featuring photography from the the journal *Camera Work*.

The 1999 PBS *American Master’s* documentary, [Alfred Stieglitz: The Eloquent Eye](#), charts the photographer’s immense influence and innovation, featuring intimate interviews with his widow, the painter Georgia O’Keeffe, museum curators, and scholars. “What is of greatest importance is to hold a moment, to record something so completely that those who see it will relive an equivalent of what has been expressed,” Stieglitz reflects in recorded audio of his writing, which is threaded throughout the film.



Stieglitz, 1934
Photographer: Imogen Cunningham



Stieglitz at work, ca. 1905

[Smithsonian Magazine](#) profiled Stieglitz in 2002 in honor of [The National Gallery’s retrospective](#). Stieglitz was the subject of the NGA’s [first exhibition dedicated exclusively to photography](#), in 1958.

In 2011, [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) debuted the first large-scale exhibition of Stieglitz’s personal collection, acquired by the museum in 1949. Over 200 works display the photographer’s influence with his contemporaries and successive generations, including, among others, works by: Georgia O’Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Constantin Brancusi, Vasily Kandinsky, and Francis Picabia. [Watch curator Lisa Messinger discuss the exhibition](#), and explore essays considering Stieglitz’s relationship to [American photography](#), and his [artistic circle](#).

[Two photographers reproduced and recovered](#) an entire set of Stieglitz’ pioneering Photo Secession journal, [Camera Work](#), which [Taschen published in a single bound volume](#). View the digital archive of *Camera Work* at [The Art Institute of Chicago](#).

Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864-1946)
The Hand of Man, 1902 (printed 1910)
Photogravure on Japan laid paper

Private Collection; L2020:49.1

The photographer, publisher, and art dealer Alfred Stieglitz was a champion of modern photography in the United States and a crucial voice in establishing it as a medium of artistic expression rather than solely a means mechanical, factual documentation. **The Hand of Man** ranks as one of his most significant and acclaimed photographs.

Born in New Jersey to German immigrants, Stieglitz studied engineering in Berlin as a young man and began making and exhibiting photographs in his twenties. By the time he returned to the U.S. in 1890 his work had already achieved international recognition. In 1902, Stieglitz and like-minded contemporaries formed the Photo-Secession group, which advocated for photography as a fine art steeped in professional craft, in opposition to the amateur point-and-shoot variety enabled by the introduction of the handheld Kodak camera in 1888. From 1903 to 1917, Stieglitz edited and published the Photo-Secession journal *Camera Work* from his New York studio. **The Hand of Man** was included in its inaugural issue. Seeking to align photography with recognized art practices like painting and printmaking, Stieglitz favored time-intensive processes and the depiction of ephemeral elements like rain, clouds, and, as seen here, the man-made byproduct of locomotive steam. In his work, the *photogravure* technique – in which a photograph is etched onto a copper plate and printed with ink – achieves a delicate texture and tonal nuance akin to fine brushwork or the smoky sweep of charcoal.



On view June 25 – September 27, 2020