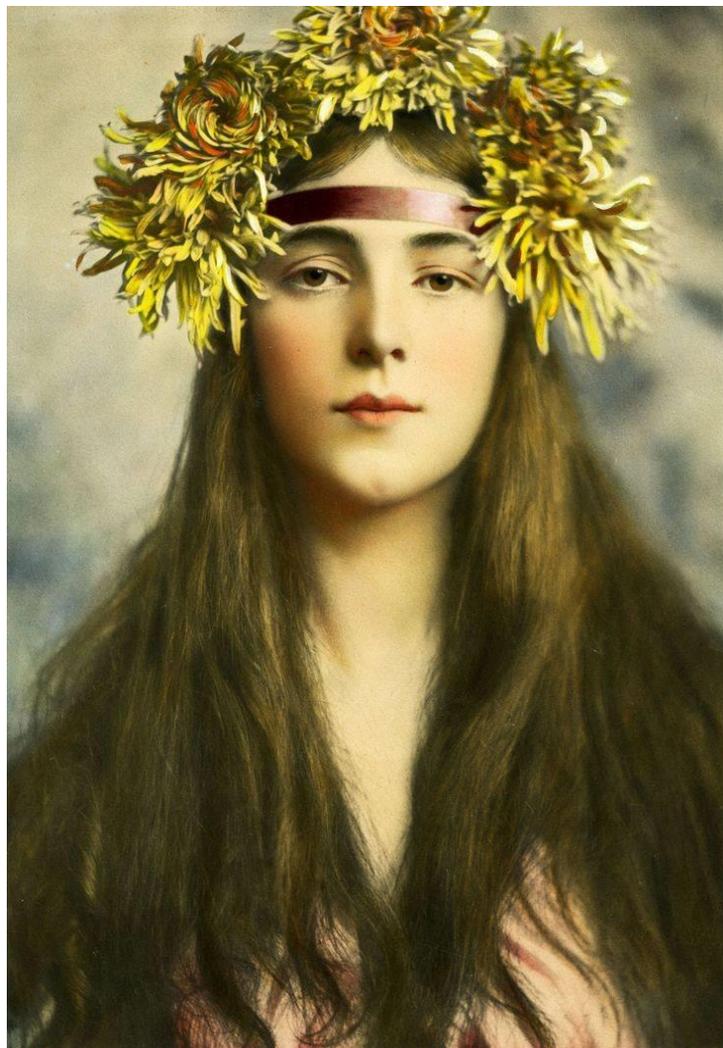


MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg Presents Extraordinary Works that Reflect the Innovative and Evocative History of Early Tinted and Color Photography

True to the Tint: The Quest for Color Photography will be on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg from June 1 through September 22, 2024.



ST. PETERSBURG, FL (May 30, 2024) — [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA), is thrilled to announce the opening of *True to the Tint: The Quest for Color Photography*, a captivating exhibition that delves into the rich history of how artists brought vibrant life to the monochrome world of black and white photography. This exhibition traces the innovative journey from manually adding tints to the development of true color photography, offering a fascinating look at the evolution of this art form.

True to the Tint showcases a stunning assemblage drawn from both private collections and the Museum of Fine Arts' extensive collection. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to explore the creative and technical advancements that paved the way for color photography, highlighting the ingenuity and artistic vision of early photographers.

True to the Tint: The Quest for Color Photography opens to the public on Saturday, June 1, 2024, and will be on view until September 22, 2024.



“We often overlook tinted photographs because of our preconceptions about the medium—the idea that true fine art photography is classic black and white,” remarked Chief Curator Dr. Stanton Thomas. “This exhibition is a great opportunity to look at superb works from the 19th through early 20th centuries that were very beautifully enhanced with color. *True to the Tint* also provides a rare chance to see some of the earliest color processes—such as autochromes and photochromie.”

Throughout most of the 1800s, color was painstakingly added to photographs through hand-painting directly onto metal plates, such as Daguerreotypes or tintypes, or onto paper images, such as salt prints or albumen prints. However, photographers continually pushed the boundaries of their craft, developing revolutionary techniques to achieve even richer and more accurate colors. Among these innovations

were Opalotypes, a photographic method printed onto milk glass that, when hand-tinted, produced incredibly lifelike effects.



By 1900, the relentless pursuit of capturing the full spectrum of colors led to the invention of Autochromes—the first commercially successful color photographic process. Autochromes utilized a unique method involving dyed grains of potato, which allowed for the realistic reproduction of colors, marking a significant milestone in the history of photography.

The exhibition's title, *True to the Tint*, is inspired by the 1851 article *Photographing in Natural Colors*. This article is one of hundreds from the 19th century that not only explored new black and white photography techniques but also chronicled the quest to capture the world in all its vibrant hues. The desire to create color photographs was driven by one of the greatest artistic ambitions of that era: achieving realism.

For decades, photographers were dedicated to finding ways to produce works in color, thereby enhancing the evocative, personal, and emotive aspects of their creations—whether portraits, landscapes, or still lifes. This relentless pursuit underscores the importance of color in truly reflecting the essence and emotional depth of the subject matter.

True to the Tint: The Quest for Color Photography is co-curated by Dr. Stanton Thomas, Chief Curator, and Jason Wyatt, Director of Collections Management. The exhibition is sponsored in part by The State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and The National Endowment for the Arts.

Images:

Rudolph Eickemeyer, American, 1862-1932, *Portrait of Evelyn Nesbit*, 1905, Hand-colored platinum print, On loan from a private collection

Esmond Genard Barnhill, American, 1894 – 1987, *Lake Maggiore*, c. 1914, Hand-colored platinum print, Gift of Dr. Robert L. and Chitranee Drapkin from the Ludmila Dandrew and Chitranee Drapkin Collection

Stanisław Julian Ignacy Ostroróg, Polish, British, 1863-1929, *Delbarre*, 1910, Tinted platinum photograph postcard, Gift of Dr. Robert L. and Chitranee Drapkin from the Ludmila Dandrew and Chitranee Drapkin Collection

The full press kit is available [here](#).

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) has an encyclopedic collection of art from around the globe and across the centuries, with almost 5,000 years of civilization represented in thousands of objects extending from antiquity to the present. The collection includes works by Georgia O'Keefe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, Jacob Lawrence, and many others, as well as ancient Greek and Roman, Asian, African, Art of the Americas and Native American art. The Museum's photographic collection is one of the largest and most well-respected in the Southeast. The museum's rotating exhibition galleries feature a diverse selection of temporary exhibitions from all over the world, as well as exhibitions curated from the museum's extensive collection. In addition to its robust exhibition program, the MFA engages the community through exciting public programs and events and serves students through youth programs and a partnership with the Pinellas County School System.

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