

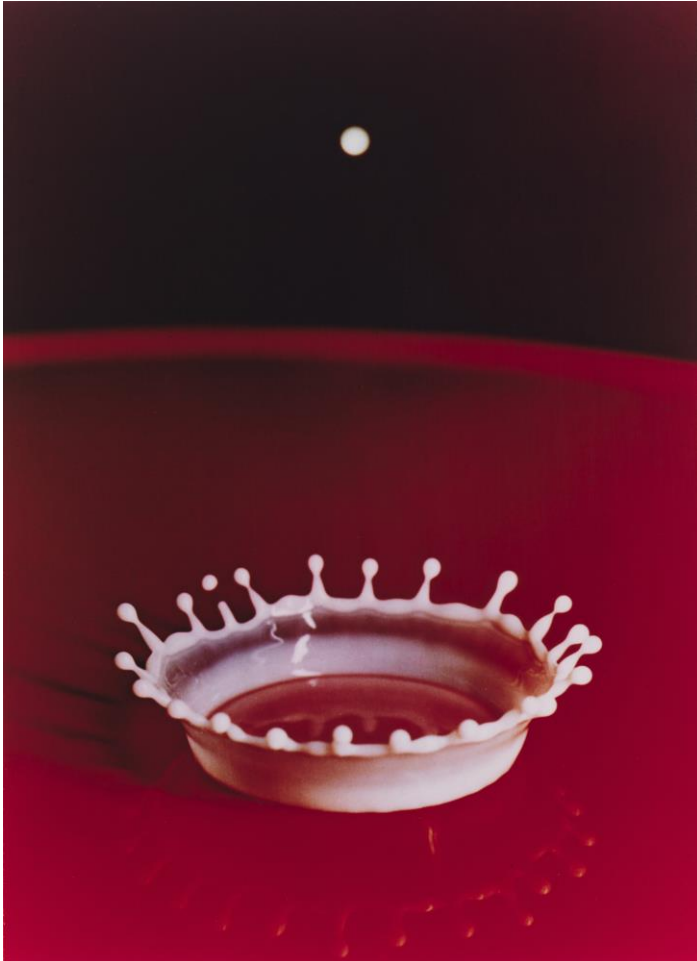
WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

99 Gansevoort Street
New York, NY 10014

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE



Harold Edgerton (1903-1990), *Milk Drop Coronet*, 1957, printed 1984-90. Edition 109/150. Dye transfer print: sheet, 19 15/16 × 16 in. (50.6 × 40.6 cm); image, 18 3/8 × 13 3/8 in. (46.7 × 34 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of The Harold and Esther Edgerton Family Foundation 96.126.3. © 2010 MIT. Courtesy of MIT Museum

FLASH: PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAROLD EDGERTON FROM THE WHITNEY'S COLLECTION TO OPEN MARCH 30 AT THE WHITNEY

NEW YORK, February 13, 2018 – The photographs of Harold Edgerton – a pioneer of flash technology and a largely under-recognized figure in the history of 20th century American photography – will be on view beginning March 30 in the Whitney's third-floor Susan and John Hess Family Gallery. The works – a revelatory selection of about forty photographs shot from the 1930s through the 1960s – are drawn entirely from the Whitney's collection, which includes 122 of Edgerton's works.

The works on view include photographs depicting single and multiple-exposure images of household products, performances, sporting events, and staged scenarios. Some of the photographs were taken in controlled environments like the bullet piercing a playing card, while others were made in public spaces requiring complex lighting and logistical coordination.

“Throughout his work, Edgerton ingeniously married playfulness to rational inquiry, joy to reason, and experimentation to formal innovation,” said Whitney assistant curator Carrie Springer, the organizer of the exhibition.

In the early 1930s, Harold Edgerton (1903-1990), an engineer and photographer, developed flash technology that allowed him to photograph objects and events moving faster than the eye can perceive. Combining technical insight and an aesthetic sensibility, Edgerton’s photographs gave unprecedented clarity to the physical world and revealed the magic of everyday life.

Born in Nebraska, Edgerton learned about photography as a teenager from his uncle. His formal studies were in electrical engineering, and he earned a Doctorate of Science from MIT in 1931. It was in that year that Edgerton began to develop significant innovations for the stroboscope, electronic flash lighting equipment that he used in high-speed photography. A member of the MIT faculty from 1927 through 1968, Edgerton also established a business partnership to develop applications for his innovations, and was deeply engaged throughout his career in collaborating with photographers, scientists, and various organizations to develop new methods for photographing a wide range of subjects in motion. Deeply involved with the development of sonar and deep-sea photography, his equipment was used by Jacques Cousteau in searching for shipwrecks and the Loch Ness monster. Although Edgerton was uncomfortable being called an artist, his work significantly expanded the legacy of such nineteenth-century figures as Eadweard Muybridge and Thomas Eakins, and shared some of the conceptual terrain of early 20th century movements such as Cubism and Futurism.

Curatorial Credit

This exhibition is organized by Carrie Springer, assistant curator.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Toyin Ojih Odutola: To Wander Determined	October 20, 2017–February 25, 2018
Experiments in Electrostatics: Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986	Opens November 17, 2017
Christine Sun Kim: Too Much Future	Opens January 29, 2018
Juan Antonio Olivares: Moléculas	Opens March 2, 2018
Zoe Leonard: Survey	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018
Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018
Between the Waters	Opens March 9, 2018
Nick Mauss	March 16 – May, 2018
Flash: Photographs By Harold Edgerton	Opens March 30, 2018
From The Whitney's Collection	
Mary Corse	Opens June 2018
Pacha, Llacta, Wasichay: Building the Indigenous Present	Opens July 2018
David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night	Opens July 13, 2018

Kevin Beasley	Opens Fall 2018
Andy Warhol	Opens November 2018
An Incomplete History of Protest:	Ongoing
Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017	Ongoing
Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection 1900–1960	Ongoing

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday. Adults: \$25. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

###