

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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MEDIA ALERT



Lesley Schiff (b. 1951), *Flower in Hand*, 1981, from the series *Seasons*, 1980-81. Color photocopy, 10 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. (26.7 x 21.6 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of Judith Goldman 2004.3.9

EXPERIMENTS IN ELECTROSTATICS: PHOTOCOPY ART FROM THE WHITNEY'S COLLECTION, 1966–1986

NEW YORK, October 19, 2017—*Experiments in Electrostatics: Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986* opens at the Whitney Museum of American Art on November 17, 2017. The exhibition explores the use of the photocopier as a creative tool, from its public emergence in the 1960s to the dawn of the digital era in the 1980s.

Decades before computer programs and smartphone apps made digital manipulation commonplace, the photocopier offered novel ways to transform images. Negotiating the device's associations with reproducibility and disposability, photocopy artists produced a variety of small edition prints.

The machine's democratic availability at offices, local copy shops, and eventually people's homes, as well as the low cost, enabled artists to experiment outside the confines of a traditional studio. Using the copier as both a camera and printing press, they achieved imaginative, often unexpected results.

Drawn from the Whitney's collection, *Experiments in Electrostatics* focuses on three artists and one collective—Edward Meneeley, Lesley Schiff, Robert Whitman, and the International Society of Copier Artists. The exhibition includes still lifes, portraits, abstractions, and collages, highlighting the possibilities for self-expression through a tool designed for easy duplication.

Experiments in Electrostatics: Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986 will be on view in the Susan and John Hess Family Gallery on the Museum's third floor.

This exhibition is organized by Michelle Donnelly, curatorial fellow.

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

<i>Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection</i>	Ongoing
<i>An Incomplete History of Protest:</i> <i>Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017</i>	Ongoing
<i>Do Ho Suh: 95 Horatio Street</i>	Ongoing
<i>Calder: Hypermobility</i>	June 9–October 23, 2017
<i>Toyin Ojih Odutola: To Wander Determined</i>	Opens October 20, 2017
<i>Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World</i>	November 3, 2017–January 28, 2018
<i>Laura Owens</i>	November 10, 2017–February 4, 2018
<i>Experiments in Electrostatics:</i> <i>Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986</i>	Opens November 17, 2017
<i>Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables</i>	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018
<i>David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night</i>	Summer 2018

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, except in July and August. 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.

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