Early 20th
Century
Modernism:
Alfred
Stieglitz and
291 Gallery

Fall 2024 Art of the United States

#### The Kodak Camera



"You press the button,
we will be rest."

OR YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF.

The only camera that anybody can use without instructions. As convenient to carry as an ordinary field glass World-wide success.

The Kodak is for sale by all Photo stock dealers.

Send for the Primer, free.

The Eastman Dry Plate & Film Co.

Price, \$25.00 - Loaded for 100 Pictures. ROCHESTER, N. Y. Re-loading, \$2.00.



#### Kodak camera, 1888

#### **Pictorialism**

- A rejection of the "snapshooters" (after Kodak camera was invented in 1888)
- A claim to return to "fine arts" of photography
- Rejected the point-and-shoot approach
- Embraced labor-intensive processes
- Emphasized the role of the photographer as craftsman
- Countered the notion of photography as entirely mechanical

### Alfred Stieglitz

- Most prominent spokesperson for pictorialist photographers in America
- In 1902 develed the photo-succession with like-minded associates such as Gertude Käseiber, Alvin Langdon Coburn and Frank Eugene
- "291" was born (a gallery on Fifth Avenue, new York)
- A publication entitled *Camera Work* was born

# CHORIA ORION

A PHOTOGRAPHIC QUARTERLY
• EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY •
ALFRED · STIEGLITZ NEW YORK

1903-1917 (designed by Steichen)

# Explore Camera Work journals

https://modjourn.org/journal/camera-work/



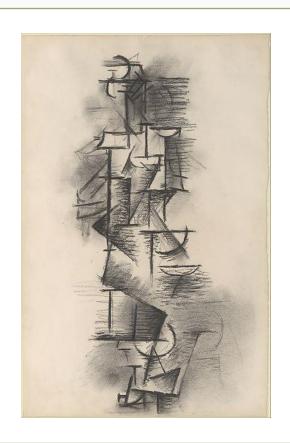
The Terminal, Alfred Stieglitz, 1893, printed 1911

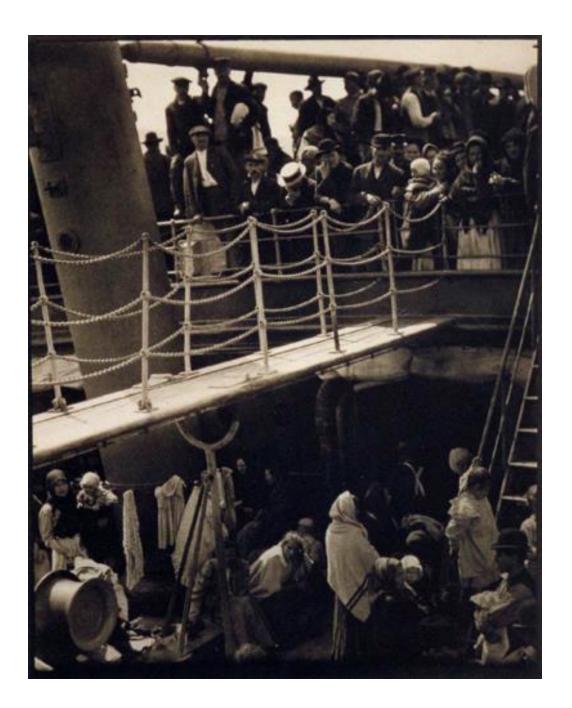


Alfred Stieglitz, *Winter on Fifth Avenue*, 1893

Alfred Stieglitz, Spring
Showers—The StreetCleaner, 1900/1901







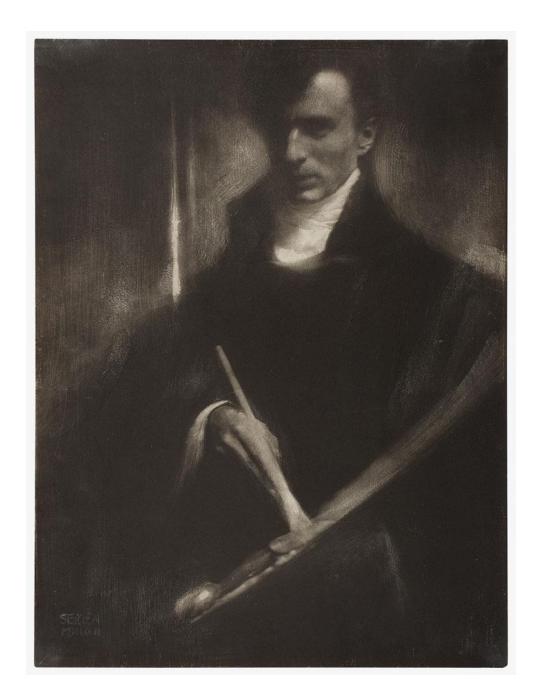
Alfred Stieglitz, *The Steerage*, 1907



Gertrude Käsebier, Blessed Art Thou Among Women, 1899



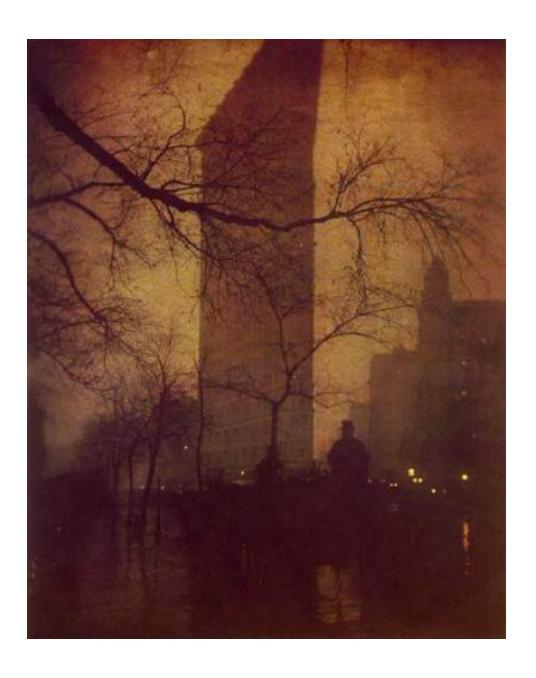
Gertrude Käsebier
Portrait of Alfred Stieglitz
1902



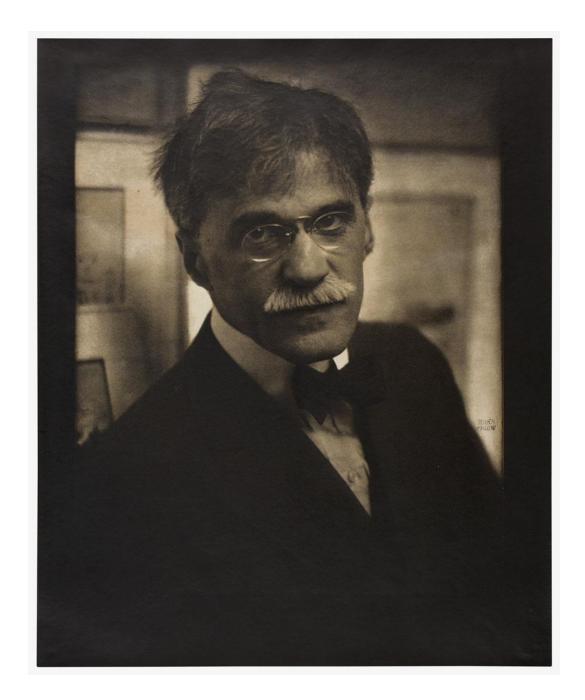
Edward Steichen, *Self-Portrait with Brush and Palette*, 1902

- Edward J. Steichen
- Rodin—*The Thinker*, 1902



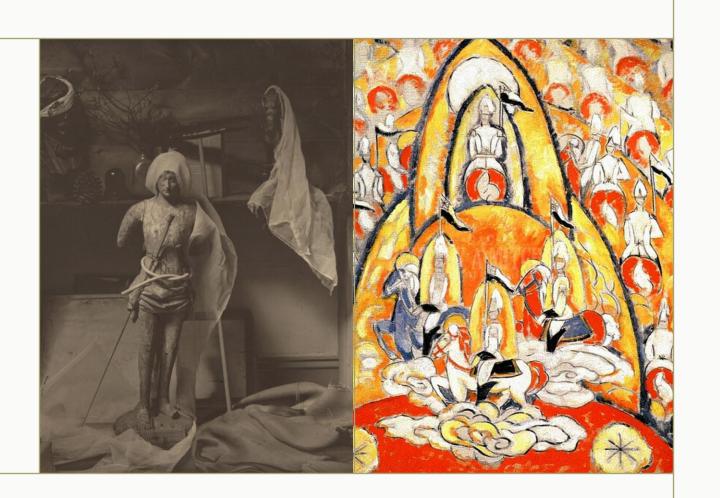


# Steichen, Flatiron, 1904



Edward Steichen, *Portrait of Alfred Stieglitz*, 1915

Alfred Stieglitz, *The Last Days of 291*, 1917

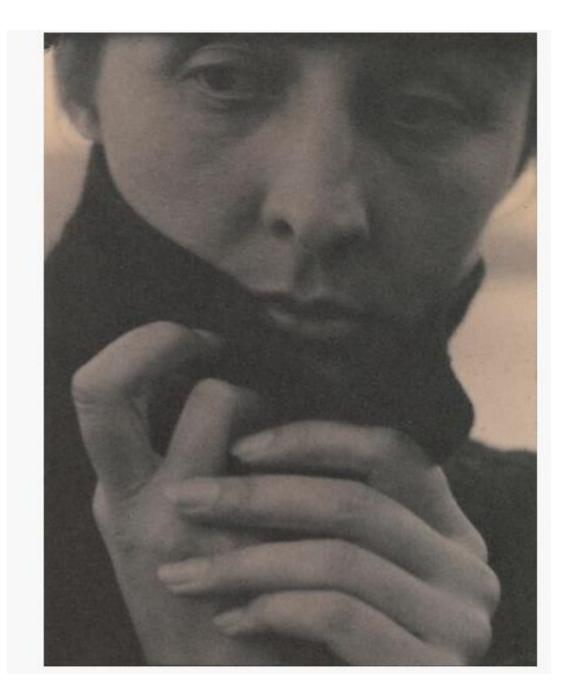


#### Straight Photography

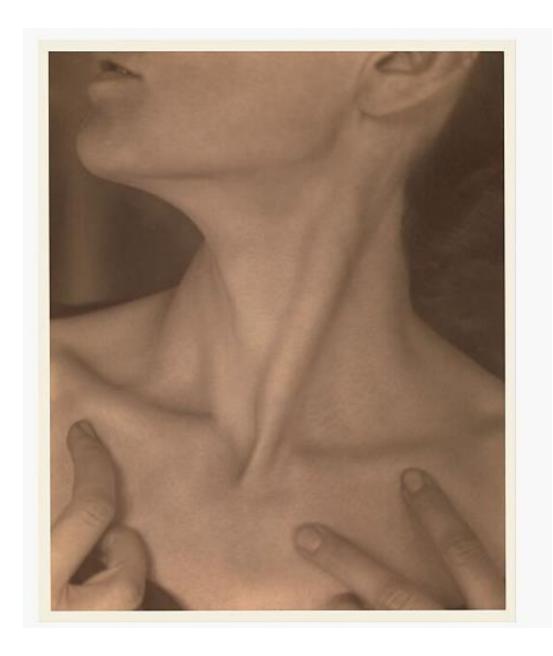
- for the first time, since the invention of photography, respects the medium's own technical visual language
- No manipulation of the image
- Form, sharp focus, rich detail, high contrast, rich tonality
- "aesthetic, intellectual, mechanical"

# Modern Turns in photographs

- the idea of the fragmented sense of self, brought about by the rapid pace of modern life
- the idea that a personality, like the outside world, is constantly changing
- The realization that truth in the modern world is relative and that photographs are as much an expression of the photographer's feelings for the subject as they are a reflection of the subject depicted



Georgia O'Keeffe, Alfred Stieglitz, 1918



#### Georgia O'Keeffe — Neck, Alfred Stieglitz

1921

**21** 



#### Paul Strand

 Strand is often discussed as the architect of the so-called <u>Straight Photography</u>; a pure photographic style that utilized large format cameras to record, and bring new perspectives to ordinary or previously ignored subjects in the name of fine art.



Paul Strand, Blind Woman, New York, 1916	

Paul Strand, Portrait, Washington Square Park, New York, 1916

