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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2017

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Scarce Photobooks & Iconic Modern Images at Swann Galleries' April Photographs Sale

New York— On **Thursday, April 20**, Swann Galleries will offer **Images & Objects: Photographs & Photobooks**, with selections exploring the many functions and purposes of the media since its inception.

The top lot of the sale is *The Arctic Regions*, 1873, a sumptuously bound narrative of American artist William Bradford's seven expeditions to the Arctic, illustrated with 141 mounted albumen photographs. Scenes include massive ice floes looming over his ship, *Panther*, nearly abstract views of icebergs and portraits of indigenous people ("Eskimeaux"); the volume is expected to fetch \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Eadweard Muybridge, another early master to use the nascent media for scientific purposes, will be represented in the sale by 60 plates from his magnum opus, *Animal Locomotion*, 1887. Subjects include women in motion, various exotic animals and a self-portrait by the artist (\$40,000 to \$60,000).

Works that reveal the enduring fascination with the American West include a run of orotones by Edward S. Curtis, led by *An Oasis in the Badlands*, 1905, with an estimate of \$10,000 to \$15,000. Ansel Adams is represented in the sale by his iconic 1941 silver print, *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* and the extremely rare deluxe edition of *Yosemite and the Range of Light*, 1979 (\$30,000 to \$45,000 and \$10,000 to \$15,000, respectively), among others.

As New York's oldest specialized auction house, Swann Galleries' Photographs & Photobooks sales consistently offer a premier selection of works exploring the dramatic growth of the city in the first half of the twentieth century. Iconic views include Berenice Abbott's *City Arabesque*, 1938 (\$6,000 to \$9,000), and a run of Lewis W. Hine's images from the construction of the Empire State Building. A selection of works by beloved New York street photographer Weegee (Arthur Fellig) offers glimpses into the lives of bygone New Yorkers with *Easter Sunday in Harlem*, 1940, and *Coney Island*, 1940 (\$2,000 to \$3,000 and \$7,000 to \$10,000, respectively). The breathtaking silver print *New York, 1931*, by Alfred Stieglitz, taken from his office window, is valued at \$25,000 to \$35,000.

Camera Work Number 36, 1903, with 16 photogravures by Stieglitz, headlines the selection of photobooks with an estimate of \$18,000 to \$22,000. Bringing the form into the world of the avant-garde is Jack Smith's *The Beautiful Book*, 1960-62, estimated at \$14,000 to \$18,000. The self-titled documentary portfolio by Danny Lyon features 30 silver prints, including iconic images from his series *Conversations with the Dead* and *Bikeriders* (\$30,000 to \$40,000), while Édouard Boubat's complete self-titled portfolio of 15 original silver prints is valued to \$14,000 to \$18,000.

Robert Frank's *Sick of Goodby's, Mabou*, silver print, 1978, a gift to his friend, the artist Sylvain Cousineau, is featured in the sale. The influential photograph is estimated at \$30,000 to \$45,000, and was

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published in Frank's *The Lines of My Hand*, a signed first edition of which is also featured in the sale (\$3,000 to \$4,500).

Further highlights include Lee Miller's circa 1929-32 unique solarized portrait of critic and editor George Jean Nathan (\$10,000 to \$15,000), alongside Irving Penn's 1947 portrait of Nathan with his colleague and collaborator, the great H.L. Mencken, valued at \$7,000 to \$10,000.

Contemporary works in the sale date to as recently as 2007, with Abelardo Morell's *Upright Camera Obscura Image of Piazzetta San Marco, Looking Southeast in Office, Venice* (\$3,000 to \$4,500). *Untitled (Human Skull)*, 2002, a unique and oversize daguerreotype Adam Fuss, is expected to sell between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

The auction will be held Thursday, April 20, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The auction preview will be open to the public Saturday, April 15 from noon to 5 p.m.; Monday, April 17 through Wednesday, April 19 from noon to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment.

An illustrated auction catalogue will be available for \$35 at www.swanngalleries.com.

For further information and to make advance arrangements to bid by telephone during the auction, please contact Daile Kaplan at 212-254-4710, extension 21, or via e-mail at dkaplan@swanngalleries.com.

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