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Nineteenth-Century Louisiana Album Reaches \$93K at Swann Galleries

Iconic Lewis Hine Portrait Bought by Subject's Great-Grandson



ICONS & IMAGES: PHOTOGRAPHS & PHOTOBOOKS

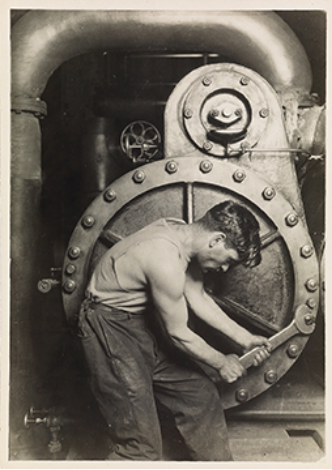
Sale 2466; February 15, 2018

Sale total: \$1,651,589

Estimates for the sale as a whole: \$1,504,400-\$2,202,100
We offered 321 lots; 236 sold (74% sell-through rate by lot)
All prices include Buyer's Premium.

New York—Swann Galleries opened the 2018 season with a \$1.6M auction of **Icons & Images: Photographs & Photobooks** on **February 15**. Important rare and unique work, both fine art and vernacular, brought a variety of buyers to the fore, with especially active bidding by institutions.

Leading the auction and closing to applause was *Photographic Views of the Red River Raft*, 1873, one of three extant copies of **Robert B. Talfor**'s documentation of the second attempt to clear debris from Louisiana's Red River. Several institutions competed for the 113 hand-colored albumen prints, and the album quadrupled its high estimate to sell for \$93,750.



A collection of 24 prints of **Lewis W. Hine**'s most iconic photographs, spanning the entirety of his career, made their victorious auction debut, selling 92%. The works—each boasting the handstamp of Hine's Hastings-on-Hudson studio, as well as notations in his own hand—were previously owned by Isador Sy Seidman, a friend of Hine, photographer and lifelong collector of photographs of New York City. An extremely rare early printing of the monumental *Powerhouse Mechanic*, or *Mechanic at Steam Pump in Electric Power House*, circa 1921, led the selection at \$81,250. A contact print of *One of many youngsters working in Carolina cotton mills*, also known as *Sadie Pfeifer, a Cotton Mill Spinner, Lancaster, South Carolina*, 1908, printed 1931, doubled its high estimate to sell to a collector for \$30,000. The lasting relevance of these images is exemplified by the buyer of *Russian family at Ellis Island*, 1905, who happily relayed that the children in the photograph are his great-grandmother and her sister.

Notable auction records were set for works by marquee artists, including Cindy Sherman's *Self-Portrait as Lucille Ball*, 1975, for \$25,000. Roy DeCarava's double portrait of *Dizzy Gillespie & Roy Eldridge*, 1956, also achieved a record at \$27,500. The fifth book of Edward S. Curtis's *The North American Indian*, 1907, set a record for that volume, selling to a collector for \$43,600.

Seven of the eight offered lots by Ansel Adams found buyers, led by a candid portrait of *Georgia O'Keeffe and Orville Cox*, 1937, which doubled its high estimate to sell for \$48,600. Additional highlights included *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, 1941, and *Winter Sunrise, Sierra Nevada, from Lone Pine, California*, 1944 (\$43,200 and \$21,600, respectively).

Daile Kaplan, Director of Photographs & Photobooks and Vice President of Swann Galleries, noted that she expects to see increased interest in nineteenth-century vernacular albums, given the success of *The Red River Raft*. The auction featured an especially strong selection of such works, including an album of 19 hand-colored salted paper prints of indigenous Brazilian women, 1861-62, which was purchased by an institution for \$23,750.

The next auction of **Photographs & Photobooks** at Swann Galleries will be on April 19, 2018. The house is currently accepting quality consignments for autumn auctions.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

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Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world's largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world's only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries' two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit swanngalleries.com for more information.

