

Time Travelers: Photographs from the Gayle Greenhill Collection

In 1911, while participating in an expedition in the Antarctic led by British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, photographer Herbert George Ponting entered what he would call “the most wonderful place imaginable”: a grotto within an iceberg. To record the feeling of being within the glistening ice, Ponting made photographs of this remarkable setting—images that allowed a wider audience to share in his experience. More than a century later, they continue to transport viewers.

Photographs can be portals to other worlds, whether the worlds of their photographers or ones constructed entirely within the boundaries of a photographic print. *Time Travelers* brings together a selection of works, dating from the medium’s earliest years to the present, that afford entry into distinct moments in its history. Reflecting multiple styles, approaches, and processes, these pictures originally reached audiences in a variety of ways. Some were made for reproduction on the printed page. Others were created expressly for display on the walls of art museums and galleries. Still others were taken as personal mementos and possibly only shown to family and friends. Presenting these photographs neither chronologically nor thematically, the exhibition instead emphasizes their individuality, inviting extended contemplation of images and the stories they carry.

Time Travelers celebrates a monumental gift of photographs to MoMA from Robert F. Greenhill in memory of his wife, Gayle Greenhill. The works on view offer encounters with people, things, and events across time and geographies, in the spirit of American photographer Emmet Gowin’s statement, “For me, pictures provide a means of holding, intensely, a moment of communication between one human and another.”

Organized by Lucy Gallun, Curator, with Samuel Allen, Curatorial Assistant, and Kaitlin Booher, former Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, The Robert B. Menschel Department of Photography.

Unless otherwise noted, all works in this exhibition are part of Robert F. Greenhill’s 2019 donation of photographs to The Museum of Modern Art in memory of his wife, Gayle Greenhill.

We invite you to explore the accompanying publication, *Time Travelers: Photographs from the Gayle Greenhill Collection*, which is available in the Museum Store.

Travel through time with archival commentary from some of the artists featured in this exhibition. Scan the QR code below to listen on the free Bloomberg Connects digital guide.



For more information, visit moma.org/timetravelers.

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