

Session 3

Teaching Photography and Migration

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This session will explore strategies for teaching students to conduct research that attends to both the critical and material dimensions of photographs. Drawing upon recent explorations of photography and migration at Colby, it will show how a big concept like migration can encourage students to think expansively about an image and the discourses through which it generates meaning.

Discussion Questions:

1. How and why do we represent photographically the experiences of immigration, (im)mobility, exile, diaspora, or passing? Such a critical question, however, must not preclude consideration of materiality—that is, the physical condition, character, experience, and lives of photographs.
2. How do photographs themselves migrate across spaces and contexts and how have viewers have engaged with them *as objects*?

Examples for discussion include a stack of prints with endless copies by artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres, documentary photographs by Lewis Hine and Margaret Bourke-White that were created for print publications and propaganda, and early vernacular studio photographs with handwritten inscriptions by James Presley Ball.

Exhibition checklist

2010.252

Margaret Bourke-White

Interior Family View

c. 1936

Black and white photograph on paper

10 1/4 in. x 13 1/2 in. (26.04 cm x 34.29 cm)

Museum Purchase from the Jere Abbott
Acquisitions fund



002.2015

J.P. Ball and Thomas Studio

Portrait of Seated Man (Mr. Whitely)

1860's

Carte de visite, Albumen print on cardstock

4 x 2 1/2 in. (10.2 x 6.4 cm)

Lent by Tanya Sheehan

003.2015

J.P. Ball

Portrait of Standing Man

1860's

Carte de visite, Albumen print on cardstock

4 x 2 1/2 in. (10.2 x 6.4 cm)

Lent by Tanya Sheehan

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J.P. Ball & Son

Portrait of Baby

1890's

Cabinet card, Albumen print on cardstock

6 1/2 x 4 1/4 in. (16.5 x 10.8 cm)

Lent by Tanya Sheehan

Exhibition checklist

005.2015

William J. Pierce

***Ball's Great Daguerrian Gallery of the West in
Gleason's Pictorial Drawing - Room Companion***

Wood engraving on newsprint

14 3/4 x 10 3/4 in. (37.5 x 27.3 cm)

Lent by Tanya Sheehan

E049.2014

Lewis Hine

Slovak Mother Ellis Island

1905

Gelatin silver print

8 x 10 in. (20.32 x 25.4 cm)

Arlette and Gus Kayafas Collection

