The Amazing and the Immutable: Photographic Works from the Drapkin Collections with Contemporary Light-Based Media

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The works have been loosely grouped and installed in close proximity: video and film, hand-tinted and collaged photographic imagery, created in the medium of the photographic arts where the scenes were then printed without any intervention. They are artworks from the 1840s to the present. These are not “straight” photographs. The belief in the “truth” of the photographic image is as old as the technology itself. Enhanced! and the attending exhibition invite visitors to re-examine the familiar and the unexpected in their relationship to the truth.

The works are assembled in the gallery to reflect the evolution of a medium. Photography’s origins are associated with a perception of the unknown, and the different ways of seeing that have been constructed over the centuries. The images included in the exhibition are from a variety of nationalities and artistic movements. The inclusion of these works challenges the viewer’s assumptions and expectations. The viewer is invited to reconsider the nature of the photographic image and its representation of truth.

The search for perfection is a common theme in photography. Digital photography has made it possible to create images that are nearly perfect, free from the imperfections that are inherent in traditional photographic processes. This has led to a new sense of realism in photography, as the images created by digital technology are so realistic that they are often mistaken for reality.

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