

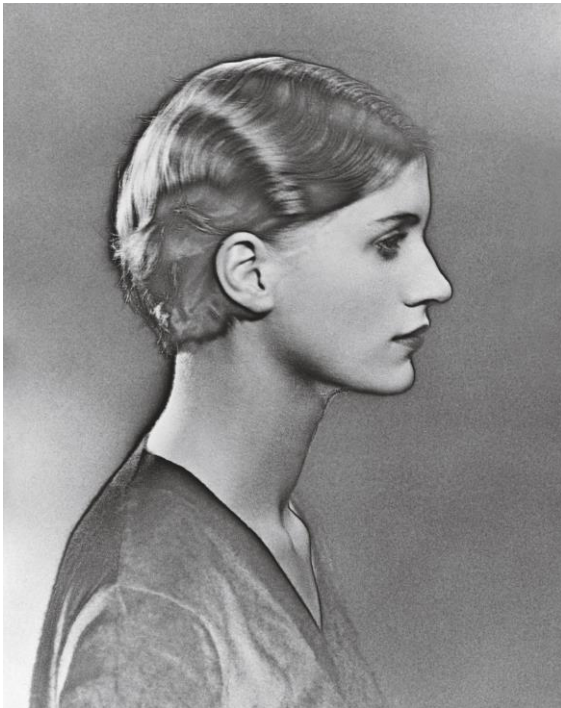
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Art Appreciation lecture series 2025

Legendary Stories: Leonardo da Vinci to Murakami

Lee Miller, Man Ray

Claudia Chan Shaw



Man Ray, *Lee Miller*, circa 1930

Lecture summary

From a photograph of Lee Miller, taken by Man Ray in c1930, unfurls the story of a fiery romance between two artistic pioneers. When Miller tracked down Ray to become his new student, it led to an extraordinary collaboration. When she later left him to continue her remarkable career as a photographer, his despair inspired some of his greatest surrealist works.

This lecture delves into the work of Lee Miller and Man Ray, beginning with a glimpse of 1920s Paris - *les années folles*, the "crazy years" when artists and intellectuals from around the world flocked to the City of Light.

Man Ray's innovative photography helped lay the foundations of Surrealism, and his collaboration with Lee Miller led to the discovery and refinement of a technique that would become a hallmark of his artistic style.

Miller's extraordinary journey took her far beyond the studio. As a war correspondent, she documented the London Blitz, the D-Day landings in Normandy, the liberation of Paris, and the horrors uncovered at Buchenwald and Dachau.

But in bearing witness to such darkness, was the price she had to pay too great?

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