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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?

Slide list

1. *Lee Miller* c1930, Man Ray. Gelatin silver print. © Man Ray 2011 Trust
2. *Vogue*, March 1927, Georges Lepape. Magazine
3. *Vogue*, 1928, Edward Steichen. Magazine
4. *On George Baher's yacht*, 1928, Edward Steichen. Gelatin silver print. Conde Nast archive
5. *Advertisement for Kotex*, 1928, Edward Steichen
6. *Self portrait with camera* 1930, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
7. *Five figures*, 1914, Man Ray, Oil on canvas
8. *The Gift*, 1921, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
9. *The Kiss*, 1922, Man , Gelatin silver print
10. *Untitled Rayograph: From the Portfolio "Les Champs Délicieux"*, 1922. Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
11. *31 bis Rue Campagne Première, Paris*. Man Ray's residence and studio
12. *Lee Miller* 1930, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
13. *Portrait of a woman with cigarette (Kiki de Montparnasse)*, 1924 Kees van Dongen, Watercolour
14. *Reclining nude*, 1922, Tsuguaharu Foujita, Ink
15. *Kiki de Montparnasse*, 1930, Pablo Gargallo, Polished bronze
16. *Kiki*, 1920s, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
17. *Kiki de Montparnasse*, 1922, Gustaw Gwozdecki
18. *Le Violon d'Ingres (Ingres's Violin)*, 1924, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
19. *Noire et blanche*, 1926, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
20. *Self portrait*, 1932, Lee Miller, Gelatin silver print
21. *Lee Miller "Le Harem"* c 1930, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
22. *Steve Strange, Regis Huet*, makeup 1980s
23. *Untitled (Rat Tails)*, 1930, Lee Miller, Gelatin silver print
24. *Vogue*, 1931, George Hoyningen-Huene, Gelatin silver print
25. *Lee Miller dressed in Lanvin*, Vogue 1932, George Hoyningen-Huene, Gelatin silver print
26. *Still from The Blood of a Poet*, 1932, Directed by Jean Cocteau
27. *Untitled (The Neck, Lee Miller)*, 1929, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
28. *Self portrait with noose*, 1932, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
29. *Observatory Time – The Lovers*, 1936, Man Ray, Oil on canvas
30. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* 1975, Poster
31. *Object to be destroyed*, 1933, Man Ray, Assemblage
32. *Larmes (Tears)*, 1932, Man Ray, Gelatin silver print
33. *Portrait of Space*, 1937, Lee Miller, Gelatin silver print
34. *Le baiser*, 1938, René Magritte, Oil on canvas
35. *L'Arlésienne (Lee Miller)*, 1932, Pablo Picasso, Oil + Ripolin on canvas
36. *Picnic*, Ile Sainte-Margeurite France, 1937, Lee Miller, Gelatin silver print
37. *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe*, 1863, Edouard Manet, Oil on canvas
38. *Lee Miller War Correspondent ID card*, 1942
39. *SS Guard in Canal, Dachau, Germany*, 1945, Lee Miller
40. *Lee Miller, Normandy, France*, 1944
41. *Liberation of Dachau, 30 April*, 1945, Lee Miller
42. *Lee Miller in Hitler's bathtub*, 30 April 1945, David E. Scherman
43. *Bürgermeister of Leipzig's daughter after suicide*, Germany, 1945, Lee Miller, Gelatin silver
44. *Lee Miller and Man Ray*, 1975
45. *Dancer-Danger 1920/1972*, Man Ray, Lithograph
46. *Poster for the film "Lee"*, 2024

47. *Lee Miller c1930, Man Ray*, Gelatin silver print

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