

OBJECT RESEARCH



Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864–1946)

Equivalent

1923

Gelatin silver print

Alfred Stieglitz Collection

AIC accession number: 1949.795

Stieglitz Estate number: 155E

Inscriptions: Unmarked recto; inscribed verso, on second mount, upper left, in graphite: "155-E" [underlined]

Dimensions: 12.2 x 9.2 cm (image); 12.6 x 10.1 cm (paper/first mount); 34.3 x 27.6 cm (second mount)

Print thickness: N/A

Surface sheen: Medium gloss (11.5 GU @ 60°)

Paper tone: N/A

Mount: Original; with original presentation window mat

Mount tone: L*74.8, a*0.88, b*10.34

Ultraviolet-induced (UV) visible fluorescence (recto): None

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry:
N/A

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometry:
N/A

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This photograph is a gelatin silver print. Due to its size, the same as a standard 4 x 5 negative, it is believed to be a contact print. The print was dry mounted off-center from its original gray mount; the engaged window opening crops and straightens the image, as well as masks the black margins created by contact printing. Excess dry-mount tissue, visible around the print, is also covered by the original window. The inscription "155-E," at the top left corner of the original mount, correlates to the estate or "Leica" number that Georgia O'Keeffe and Doris Bry assigned to mounted prints from the same negative that were in Stieglitz's possession at the time of his death. When the surface of the print is viewed under high magnification, fibers from the photographic paper are not visible—indicating the presence of a thick baryta layer beneath the emulsion. Silver, barium, and strontium were detected using XRF spectrometry. Barium and strontium are present due to the baryta layer typical of gelatin silver prints, used to create a smooth surface over the paper upon which the gelatin emulsion was applied during manufacture. The print does not fluoresce when exposed to long-wave UV radiation.