

## **Between Past and Present: Historic Photographic Processes and the Winslow Homer Studio (working title)**

In conjunction with the restoration of the Winslow Homer Studio on Prouts Neck, Maine, the Portland Museum of Art is organizing an exhibition of contemporary photography made with a variety of historic processes available during the painter's lifetime. From tintypes to platinum prints, cyanotypes to gum bichromate prints, these historical processes in the hands of today's photographers simultaneously evoke the past and capture the present.

The Museum will commission a group of photographers to produce images of the Homer Studio that may include architectural studies, views of the landscape, interior scenes, an even still-life subjects of the few objects that survive from Homer's day. Among the photographers and historic processes we are considering are Abelardo Morell (camera obscura), Keliy Anderson-Staley (wet-plate collodion), Brenton Hamilton (cyanotype and gum bichromate), Tillman Crane (platinum prints), and Alan Vlach (salted paper prints). Each photographer will be asked to produce a select number of images from which the exhibition will be drawn and from which the Museum will make an acquisition. These works will be included in an exhibition on view at the Portland Museum from September through December, 2012, in conjunction with a major exhibition of Homer's late paintings, also executed at Prouts Neck. The photography exhibition is presented as part of the Museum's "Circa Series," which features the work of contemporary artists and includes a small publication and related educational programs.

As a means of documenting the restoration of the Museum's historic McLellan House in 2002, we presented a series of small exhibitions called "Open House" which also highlighted the work of contemporary photographers. A decade later, the Homer Studio project affords a similar opportunity to provide the public with images that interpret, as well as record, the significance of another, even more historic property. Because of the remote and private location of the Homer Studio, it is incumbent upon us to offer additional means for museum visitors to access views of its spectacular coastal site and its intimate working spaces. As artists, the contemporary photographers included in this exhibition will assimilate the impact of Homer's world on their own and use the specific features of an historic photographic process to convey the connections between past and present.