Alfred Stieglitz
American, 1864 - 1946

The Last Joke—Bellagio or A Good Joke
1887

platinum print
sheet (trimmed to image): 11.7 × 14.7 cm (4 5/8 × 5 13/16 in.)
mount: 52 × 36.5 cm (20 1/2 × 14 3/8 in.)
Alfred Stieglitz Collection  1949.3.30
Stieglitz Estate Number 60A
Key Set Number 33

Related Key Set Photographs
In the summer of 1887 Stieglitz traveled through Italy, stopping in Venice, Chioggia, Pallanza (on Lake Maggiore), Bellagio (on Lake Como), and Riva de Garda (on Lake Garda). This photograph and Key Set numbers 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 were made in Bellagio. Later that fall, Stieglitz sent twelve photographs made during the trip, including *A Good Joke*, to *The Amateur Photographer's* "Photographic Holiday Work Competition," judged by Peter Henry Emerson (see *The Amateur Photographer* 6 [4 November 1887], 217). This photograph won first prize (see *The Amateur Photographer* 6 [25 November 1887], 253).

The negative for this image was made using a Steinheil Aplanat 19-inch lens on Perutz's Orthochromatic plates and developed using oxalate, pyrosoda, hydroquinone, and eikongen (see exh. cat., Fourth Annual Joint Exhibition, New York, 1891).

A print corresponding with this photograph can also be found in the following collection(s):
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 370.1964

Private collection

Lifetime Exhibitions

A print from the same negative—perhaps a photograph from the Gallery's collection—appeared in the following exhibition(s) during Alfred Stieglitz's lifetime:

1888, Vienna (no. 52.a.6, as Genrestudie aus Italien)
1889, Berlin (Special Steinheil Prize)
1890, London, Crystal Palace (no. 836, as A Good Joke)
1891, New York (no. 237, as A Good Joke, aristotype)
1894, Toronto
1899, New York (no. 22, as A Good Joke, 1887–1889, platinum direct)
1921, New York (no. 1, as My First-Prize Winner, 1887)

Lifetime Publications

A reproduction of this work appeared in the following publication(s) during Alfred Stieglitz's lifetime:

The Amateur Photographer 7, special number (11 July 1888): frontispiece (ill., A Good Joke)

Photographische Mitteilungen 26 (September 1889): opp. 153 (ill., untitled)


INSCRIPTION

by Alfred Stieglitz, on mount, upper left verso, in graphite: Exhibition / 1921; left center verso: The Last Joke— / Bellagio 1887

by Georgia O'Keeffe, on mount, lower left verso, in graphite: 60A
PROVENANCE

Georgia O’Keeffe; gift to NGA, 1949.

EXHIBITION HISTORY

1958 Photographs by Alfred Stieglitz, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, March 16–April 27, 1958


BIBLIOGRAPHY


