NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ONLINE EDITIONS
Alfred Stieglitz Key Set

Alfred Stieglitz
American, 1864 - 1946

Charles Duncan

probably 1916

platinum print
image: 23.1 x 18 cm (9 1/8 x 7 1/16 in.)
sheet: 25.2 x 20.2 cm (9 15/16 x 7 15/16 in.)
mat: 50.6 x 38 cm (19 15/16 x 14 15/16 in.)
Alfred Stieglitz Collection 1949.3.302
Stieglitz Estate Number 80D
Key Set Number 434

KEY SET ENTRY

Remarks

A painter and poet, Charles Duncan studied in Europe around 1909 and may have met Stieglitz through his friendship with John Marin or Charles Demuth. Stieglitz showed his work at 291 in an “Exhibition of Drawings by Georgia O’Keeffe of Virginia; Watercolors and Drawings by Charles Duncan of New York; and Oils, by Réné Lafferty of Philadelphia,” from 23 May to 5 July 1916. A contributor to both *Camera Work* and Marcel Duchamp’s publication *Blind Man*, Duncan may also have encouraged Stieglitz to exhibit Duchamp’s work at 291. In the 1920s Duncan supported himself as a sign painter, writing to Stieglitz in a letter of 2 October 1920 that “. . . young life slips away as I dance on scaffolds to the heavy turns of loaded brushes” (YCAL). In the later 1920s he was the subject of one of Charles Demuth’s “Poster Portraits”; Demuth wrote Stieglitz on 12 July 1926 that he “saw Duncan this

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spring in New York and he seemed the maddest of us all. Oh, lord" (YCAL).

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:

1921, New York (no. 39, as *Charles Duncan*, 1915)

INSCRIPTION

by Alfred Stieglitz, on mount, upper left verso, in graphite: Charles Duncan 1909 / Exhibition 1921

by later hand, on mount, lower left verso, in graphite: 80 D

PROVENANCE

Georgia O'Keeffe; gift to NGA, 1949.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2002 Greenough, Sarah. *Alfred Stieglitz: The Key Set: The Alfred Stieglitz Collection of Photographs*. Washington, 2002: vol. 1, cat. 434.

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