
WORK, INDUSTRY, & DESIGN

June 17th – September 25th 2021

As we emerge from a hellish pandemic and “rebuild,” Throckmorton Fine Art is pleased to offer an exhibit of photography of men and women at work, of industry, and of design. The images are from an earlier era of modernization, of industriousness from the 1920s to the 1950s. It was a period when artists turned away from rural, bucolic, picturesque images, and embraced modernity, with all of its steel and soot.

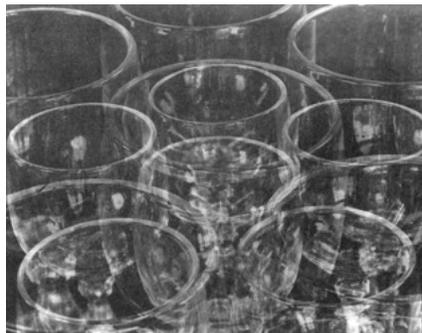
There are forty-four images in the exhibit, all of them gelatin silver prints and all in black-and-white. Photographers whose work is shown include: Tina Modotti, Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Lola Álvarez Bravo, Leo Matiz, Héctor García, Lewis Hine, Edward Weston, Graciela Iturbide, and Margaret Bourke White. All of the photographers shown were progressive for their time, willing to see beauty in industry, often through an attraction to novel forms.

Labor, too, is celebrated. Images included in the show by Lola Álvarez Bravo show men shoveling, sewing, and soldering. Workers of all kinds abound in the exhibit, and are given a solemn dignity. One of the highlights in the exhibit is an image by Edward Weston from 1922: *Amco Steel, Ohio*. The photograph is one of the earliest works by Weston showing his movement into modernism and his embrace of the twentieth century. The earliest work in the exhibit is also notable: an image from 1906 by Lewis Hine, *Spinner*. It is a haunting work, and is artistically prescient.

The eight photographs in the exhibit by the pioneer photographer, Margaret Bourke-White, are illustrative of the ability to see beauty in industry. In one memorable photograph she finds beauty in the silhouettes of five oil tanks. There is also a celebration of the form of the dirigible for Goodyear Rubber, and even of a chemical laboratory kettle. Bourke-White notably had a successful career as an industrial photographer. Bourke-White held numerous “firsts”: she was the first foreign photographer allowed to take pictures of Soviet industry, she was the first female staff photographer for LIFE (magazine), and she was the first woman allowed to work in combat zones in World War II. She is remembered today, above all, for embracing industry, finding it a worthy subject for photography. At a time when we need to get back to work, to “build back better,” Bourke-White and other photographers of her generation are an inspiration.



Lewis Hine, Powerhouse Mechanic, 1920
Vintage



Tina Modotti, Glasses, 1924



Margaret Bourke White,
Welding Rims, 193, Vintage

THROCKMORTON FINE ART
145 East 57th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, New York
Tel. 212. 2230 1059 Fax. 212. 223. 1937
Info@throckmorton-nyc.com / www.throckmorton-nyc.com