

exhibits

BY MIKE MAY

TWO PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWS TAKE US ON JOURNEYS PAST AND PRESENT: A RETROSPECTIVE ON A GOLDEN AGE OF THE CAMERA AND A CONTEMPORARY, POE-TIC REAWAKENING OF A THEME FROM THE PAST WHERE SHUTTER SPARKS SHUDDER.



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THROUGH MAY 5

Street Photography to Surrealism

"Street Photography to Surrealism: The Golden Age of Photography in France, 1900-1945" at The Frick Pittsburgh offers a time-travelogue with an album of beautiful, dreamy scenes — and some that provide a contrast. Black-and-white and sepia-tone prints in particular evoke a vanished world redolent of Proustian remembrances. More than a hundred examples from 16 photographers, including Eugène Atget, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Ilse Bing, provide diverse takes on the times and techniques.

Look for Parisian landmarks, ordinary streetscapes turned extraordinary through keen observation, quiet oases, can-can dancers and glimpses of the demimonde. Although a golden age of photography, this wasn't a golden age for everyone, as evidenced by the depictions of cesspool workers. A 1932 view of men reading Yiddish theater posters bespeaks the coming catastrophe of World War II. Experimental photos by Man Ray beckon us from the real into the surreal.

POINT BREEZE: 7227 Reynolds St.
412/371-0600, thefrickpittsburgh.org

THROUGH MARCH 23

Gothic Fictions

"Gothic Fictions" at Silver Eye Center for Photography takes a visual walk on the dark side, channeling forebears in the literary genre such as Edgar Allan Poe and playing to our modern fascination with horror, crime and the macabre.

Photographers Dylan Hausthor, Rory Mulligan and Tereza Zelenkov model essential Gothic elements: "Foreboding and ancient settings, villains who are at once human and mythological, and a sense of overwhelming, creeping, unstoppable fear," according to Silver Eye.

Hausthor leads us to a lush forest that evokes a sense of foreboding in its spooky depths; Zelenkov's photo, "The Essential Solitude," captures a figure, isolated in a decaying space, who might be a recluse or prisoner; and Mulligan finds inspiration in the Hudson River Valley, associated with Washington Irving tales and the Son of Sam murders. Related to the show: "Prairie Gothic," comprising two films by Melika Bass, screens at 7 p.m. on March 21.

BLOOMFIELD: 4808 Penn Ave.
412/431-1810, silveryeye.org

"Boulevard de Strasbourg, Corsets", 1912, by Eugene Atget (French, 1857-1927). Albumen print.