

Rare Photographs, illustrated by sumptuous reproductions of little-known or previously unpublished prints, reveal early experiments by the modernist master Edward Weston

MFA Boston

Edward Weston

The Early Years

115 illustrations

27.9x22.8cm

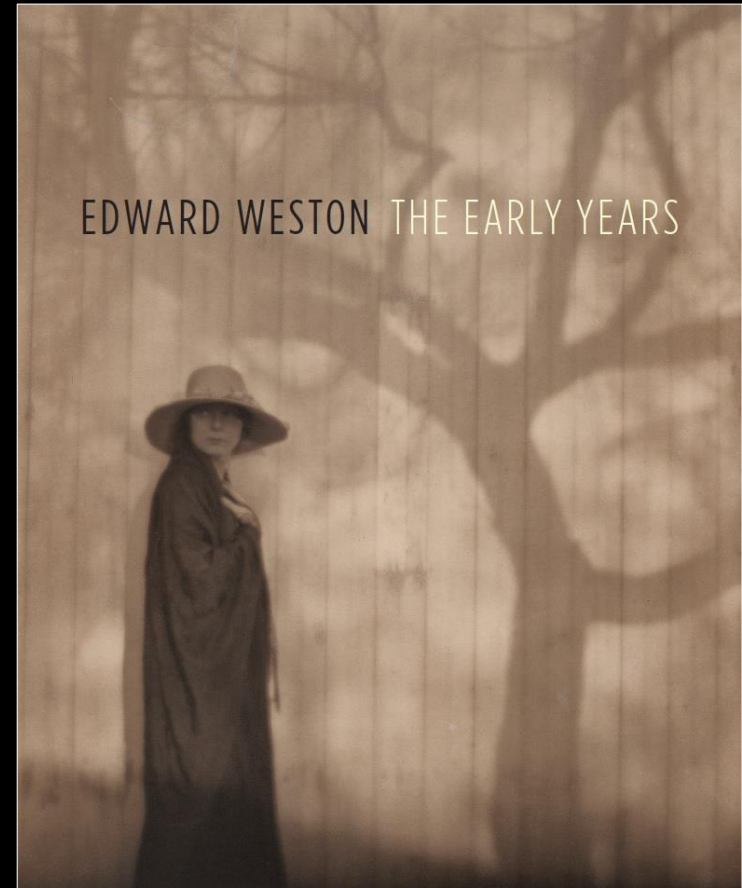
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Key Sales Points

- Includes never-before published prints from the Lane Collection
- Features new scientific analysis of Weston's methods and materials
- Handsomely produced with beautiful reproductions



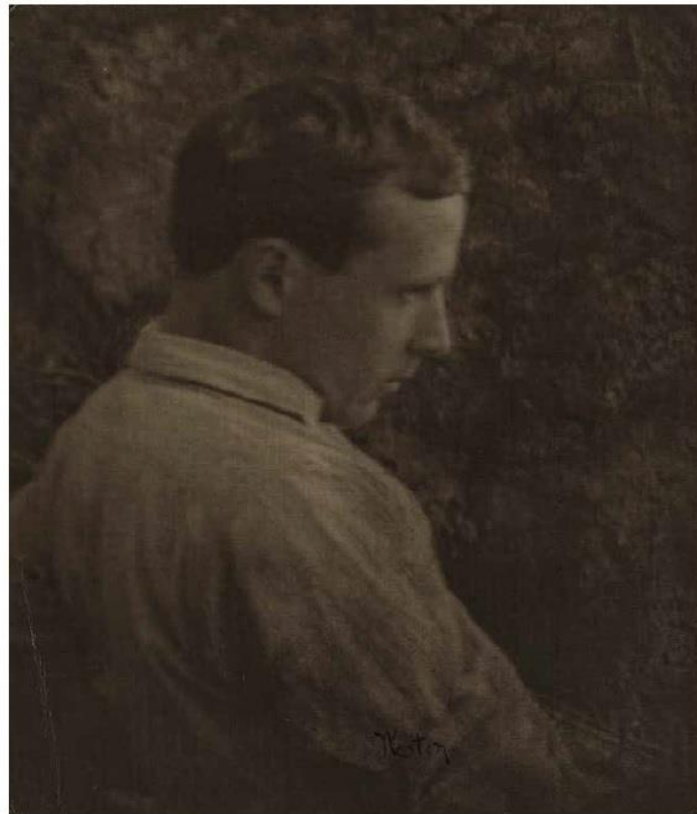
BEGINNINGS

EDWARD HENRY WESTON was born on March 24, 1886 in the small town of Highland Park, Illinois, just north of Chicago, on the edge of Lake Michigan. A short time later, he and his parents and sister, Mary Jeanette (known as May), moved to the bustling South Side of Chicago. His father, Edward Burbank Weston, was a successful obstetrician and the family lived a comfortable middle-class life until the sudden and devastating death of his wife, Alice, during the pneumonia epidemic in the winter of 1892. May, who was nine years older than her five-year-old brother, took on the role of surrogate mother to him and, as a result, she and Edward remained exceptionally close throughout their lives. Their father's subsequent decision to remarry and move his household several times over the next few years strained relations between the two sides of the family and seems to have worsened his son's already troubled experiences with formal schooling.¹

Even so, it was Edward's father who sent him his first camera—a Kodak Bull's-Eye #2—in 1902 when he was 16 years old and spending the summer on a relative's farm in Michigan. His father's note that accompanied the simple box camera was full of practical suggestions for the novice; he recommended that his son start by shooting only outdoors (thus avoiding anything but the simplest camera settings) and that he remember to always keep the sun behind him and to forward the film after each of its twelve exposures. A clearly excited Edward responded almost immediately: "Received camera in good shape. It's a dandy. . . . Took a snap at the chickens. I think it's a good one as I was right near them. . . . It makes me feel bad to think of the fine snaps I could have taken



9 | HONEYMOON TRIP, 1909



10 | SELF-PORTRAIT, ABOUT 1909-11



13 | FLORA CHANDLER WESTON, 1909



14 | FLORA CHANDLER WESTON, 1909



16 | IN VACATION TIME, ABOUT 1909



17 | LET'S PLAY HOOKEY, 1911



18 | CHICAGO RIVER HARBOR, ABOUT 1908



19 | VALLEY OF THE LONG WIND, 1913



20 | SUMMER SUNSHINE (RAE DAVIS), 1914



21 | I DO BELIEVE IN FAIRIES, 1913

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