

## Simply Add Boiling Water



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**Not currently on view**

### Object Details

Title:

Simply Add Boiling Water

Artist/Maker:

[Weegee \(Arthur Fellig\) \(/art/collection/artists/1851/weegee-arthur-fellig-american-born-austria-1899-1968/\)](/art/collection/artists/1851/weegee-arthur-fellig-american-born-austria-1899-1968/)  
(American, born Austria, 1899 - 1968)

Culture:

American

Date:

negative before July 1937; print about 1950

Medium:

Gelatin silver print

Object Number:

84.XM.190.33

Dimensions:

33.7 × 26.3 cm (13 1/4 × 10 3/8 in.)

Copyright:

Markings:

(Verso) wet stamp in black ink, at upper center: "CREDIT PHOTO BY / WEEGEE / THE FAMOUS [encircled]" (stamped upside-down) (Verso) wet stamp in red ink, at lower right center: "ARTHUR FELLIG / 5 CENTER MARKET PLACE / NEW YORK CITY" (stamped sideways)

Inscription:

(Verso) inscribed in pencil, at lower right corner, in a later unknown hand: "8740".

Object Type:

Print

A dramatic nighttime fire at a New York City kitchen products factory provided Weegee with an opportunity to exhibit some wry humor. Just below where the water cannons douse the fire, and almost centered in the frame, a sign reads "SIMPLY ADD BOILING WATER." Weegee's intentionally ironic composition enhanced his chance of selling the image to newspapers, something that was always in the forefront of his mind as a freelance photographer.

Weegee's dramatic high contrast print nevertheless subtly reveals the tones of the building's facade at night. Glaring white ambulance lights, lamplight, and chutes of water from a fire truck mix with the ghostly glow of fire and steam. Using a combination of flashbulbs, and by some accounts flash powder, Weegee generated enough light to capture this scene.

Exhibitions

Neither Speech nor Language: Photography and the Written Word (February 28 to May 12, 1991)

- The J. Paul Getty Museum (Malibu), February 28 to May 12, 1991

Scene of the Crime: Photo by Weegee (September 20, 2005 to January 22, 2006)

- The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center (Los Angeles), September 20, 2005 to January 22, 2006

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