

## FREEZE FRAME EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE'S PHOTOGRAPHY OF MOTION



CAPTURING THE  
MOMENT  
MUYBRIDGE IN  
MOTION  
FROM PROOF  
TO PRINT  
SEQUENCES +  
STRUCTURES  
EPILOGUE  
MORE INFORMATION

**E**xpatriate Englishman Eadweard Muybridge (1830–1904), a brilliant and eccentric photographer, gained worldwide fame photographing animal and human movement imperceptible to the human eye. Hired by railroad baron Leland Stanford in 1872, Muybridge used photography to prove that there was a moment in a horse's gallop when all four hooves were off the ground at once. He spent much of his later career at the University of Pennsylvania, producing thousands of images that capture progressive movements within fractions of a second.

*Freeze Frame* explores the famous photographs of animal and human locomotion that Muybridge made at the University of Pennsylvania between 1884 and 1887. For 100 years, historians considered these photographs to be scientific studies of the body in motion. The Museum's collection of Muybridge's working proofs, however, suggests a more complex interpretation. The proofs, never before exhibited, were recently rediscovered and are shown here for the first time.

### Science or Art—or Both?

Although Eadweard Muybridge thought of himself primarily as an artist, he encouraged the aura of scientific investigation that surrounded his project at the University of Pennsylvania. Published in 1887 as *Animal Locomotion*, the 781 finished prints certainly look scientific, and historically, most viewers have accepted them as reliable scientific studies of movement. The recent rediscovery of Muybridge's working proofs, however, demonstrates that he freely edited his images to achieve these final results. How does this change our idea of his photography?

See what you think. -->



"ASCENDING AND DESCENDING STAIRS"  
*ANIMAL LOCOMOTION* PLATE 504, 1887  
COLLOTYPE



"WALKING AND TURNING AROUND RAPIDLY WITH A SACHEL IN ONE HAND, A CANE IN THE OTHER"  
*ANIMAL LOCOMOTION* PLATE 49, 1887  
COLLOTYPE  
(ANIMATION AVAILABLE)



"LAWN TENNIS"  
*ANIMAL LOCOMOTION* PLATE 298, 1887  
COLLOTYPE

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***Note to Parents***

In pursuit of his mission to illustrate all aspects of human movement, Muybridge frequently used models who were nude, seminude, or draped in a gauzy fabric. This is in keeping with centuries-old artistic tradition and the scientific aspect of Muybridge's work. There are images presented here which might be considered objectionable for children.