



By Libby Bischof, Susan Danly,
and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.

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Claire Seidl's black-and-white nocturnal scenes taken around her family's camp on Rangeley Lake concentrate on the human figure in water but they are far more abstract than (David) Hillard's. A painter as well as a photographer, Seidl often experiments with long exposures and an ordinary flashlight to create the ethereal atmosphere that engulfs her imagery. Her selenium-toned, silver gelatin prints have been shown most often in major Maine venues such as the June Fitzpatrick Gallery in Portland, Icon Contemporary Art in Brunswick, the Bates College Museum of Art, the Ogunquit Museum of American Art, and CMCA in Rockport, and they particularly appeal to collectors who focus on Maine photographs. Her images can be found in the Astrachan Collection at the University of New England and the Bruce Brown collection in Portland, at the Portland Museum of Art, and at the University of Maine Museum of Art.

“Maine has always played a rich and varied role in the art of photography. For hundreds of years, photographers, like other artists, have made their way to Maine to capture the natural beauty and human culture of the state. So, too, have many photographers come from Maine, and many contributions by Mainers have been made to the medium. Maine in Photography is the first comprehensive overview of the history of photography in the state. Providing basic knowledge of the most important people and institutions to have promoted photography, this volume also studies the ways in which photography has informed the understanding of the social and cultural history of Maine.

Beginning with the earliest daguerreotype portraits of the 1840s, this history traces the growth of the medium—emphasizing key contributions, such as the Stanley brothers’ invention of the dry plate process—through to the present. Key topics addressed throughout the book include the importance of photography in documenting labor and economic life, the close relationship between photography and the growth of tourism, and the role of Maine photographers in advancing the medium as a fine art form. Published in conjunction with the Maine Photo Project, this is a unique and timely addition to the body of work on the importance of Maine to American art.”

- Maine Photography: A History, 1840-2015



Fig. 9.10
Claire Seidl - *Moonlight Swimmers*, 2013
Gelatin Silver Print
16 x 20 in.