

ARTIST PROFILE

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BLOCK: _____

I hope everyone is safe and doing well. While we are home dodging COVID-19, lets take a look at a few great artists.

Leonard Misonne



Leonard Misonne was born in Gilly, Belgium on July 1, 1870 near Charleroi. He is the son of Belgium industrialist and lawyer Louis Misonne and Adele Pimez.

Misonne studied Greek and humanities at the Jesuit College in Charleroi. He studied to become a mining engineer at the University of Louvain. In 1890 he made his first photographs. He soon became a part of the Louvain circle of photography, which was to influence him during the rest of his life.

In 1895 he received his degree in mining engineering, but he decided not to pursue his profession. Instead he took up photography, painting and the piano. He returned to Gilly where he spent the rest of his life. There he administered the family fortune. In 1896 he joined the Association Belge de Photographie and then exhibited at a show

organized by this group—the first of many exhibitions that he participated in. He then decided to devote himself entirely to photography.

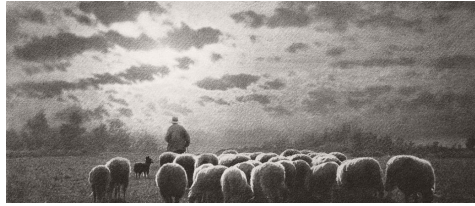
From 1896 to 1915, Misonne utilized a carbon process much like Fresson. He traveled to Germany, Switzerland and France. He visited the museums in Paris, where he saw and admired the work of Gustave Dore and Corot. He also visited London. He traveled by bicycle all over Belgium during this time and actually won many bike races. His photographs from this period are often considered his best work, and he reprinted many of these images during the rest of his life. He said, “The Sky is the key to the Landscape.” He became known as one of the premier pictorialists, but he never made the transition that some pictorialists made to Modernism.

In 1897 he invented the “Photo-Dessin” process. Throughout 1903-07 his images were used in Photo Club de Paris magazine. In 1906 he married Valentine Labin, who he had eight children with. He also took his last major tour to Switzerland and Italy. But he suffered from asthma and became house bound for much of his life.

In 1912, Misonne became a member of the Societe Francaise de Photographie. From 1915 to 1935 he used the oil process, which he learned from Constant Emile Puyo. From 1935-43 he used his own process called the mediobromine or mediobrome process. He became seriously ill in 1940 and finally he died September 14, 1943 in his beloved city of Gilly, Belgium.

His pictorialist work is highly sought after by collectors and curators. His work is the collections of hundreds of museums, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, the George Eastman House, the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the Amon Carter Museum, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Rijksmuseum, the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, the Norsk Museum for Fotografi, the National Museum of American History, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Sydney Art Gallery of New South Wales, just to mention a few.

His biography is in the George Eastman House and Auer & Auer databases. Several books have been written on his work. A major retrospective has been on exhibit at the Musee de la Photographie (Charleroi, Belgium) and a catalogue has been published.



Assignment Instructions:

1. Go the website for: Monovision Black and White Photography, and search Leonard Misonne. This gallery can be found at- <https://monovisions.com/leonard-misonne-biography-pictorial-photographer/>
2. If you are trying to complete this assignment at a time when this online gallery has been taken down simply do a Google image search for Leonard Misonne Photography.
3. Spend some time looking through several of his photographs.
4. Find three that resonate with you. These should be pieces that intrigue you and stand out from the others.
5. List your three choices. Write down a general description of each piece. Many of Missone's photographs are with out title so simply give a simple description.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6. Between the three pieces of art that you have picked out narrow your interest down to one piece that you feel is your favorite. Which did you pick? Pretend you are describing the piece to a person who is blind. Describe in detail the scene; what is going on, what is the light doing? Describe the lines and shapes that are visible? Stay away from emotional descriptors but attempt to vividly paint the picture with your detailed description.

7. Misonne once said, "Light glorifies everything. It transforms and ennoble the most commonplace and ordinary subjects." Can you see his transforming and glorifying of ordinary subjects in the piece you have selected? Explain your answer and give examples that can be seen in the potograph.

8. One of the greatest goals for an artists is to provide a visual catalyst that propels the viewers mind into the scene. Many young people today are so desensitized to art because of all the media, TV, Internet and the constant imagery that bombards their minds. If you can look at a piece of art and your mind is blank and you feel no emotion you have not cultivated your art viewing skills. To master the art of seeing you have to develop the ability to become emotionally involved in what you are looking at and learn how to identify the harmonies of various varieties of elements (line, shape, form, value, color, texture) and how they contribute to your feelings. This perception is very much inborn in some but has to be developed in others. So, now that you are pretty familiar with your selection, how does the piece make you feel? Where does it guide your thought process? Where do you think Misonne's mind was in creating the piece?

9. Leonard Misonne's photographs were all about light. Using your cell phone or any digital camera that you have hunt around the house for some light that is glorifying a common subject. Find and capture a scene where light is the main element that is creating the interest in the scene. Take the photo edit the image to just a black and white image. Upload your image freshgrade.