

Above: *The Scenic Daguerreotype in America 1840-1860* exhibition catalogue (Paul Holberton, 2025). For sale now in the Museum Shop.

The Scenic Daguerreotype in America 1840-1860

On view July 10, 2025–March 22, 2026

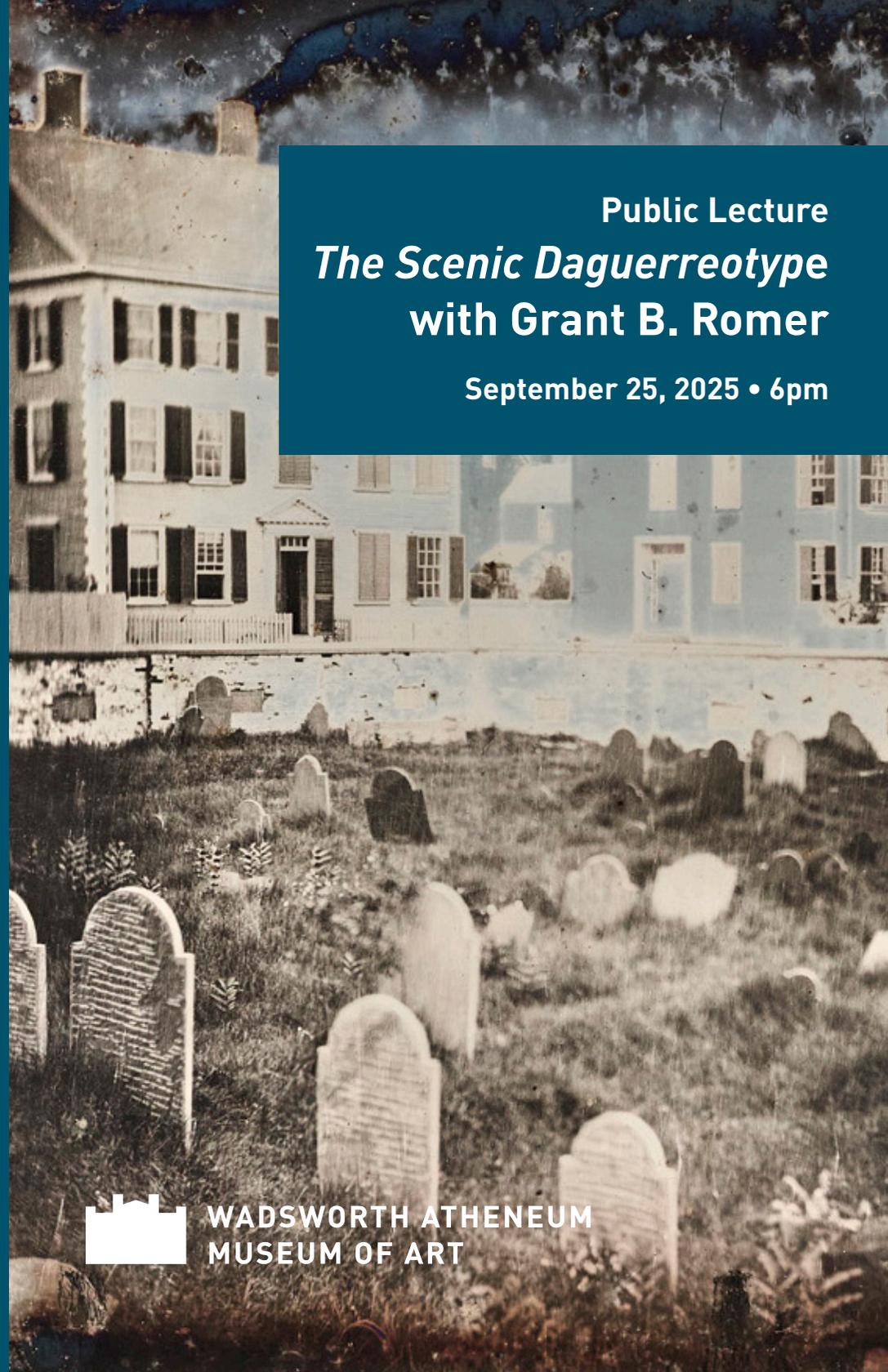
The Daguerreian Society Symposium September 26, 2025, 9am–5pm

The Daguerreian Society convenes at the Wadsworth for its annual symposium, a celebration of nineteenth-century photography. The daylong program unites collectors, historians, scholars, and museum professionals from around the world for a series of presentations on recent findings in the field. Registration required via the daguerreiansociety.org.

This program is presented in partnership with the Daguerreian Society with support provided by the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation Fund.

Front Cover: Detail, *Cemetery*, c. 1845. Quarter plate daguerreotype. Collection of Greg French.

 **WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART**



Public Lecture *The Scenic Daguerreotype* with Grant B. Romer

September 25, 2025 • 6pm

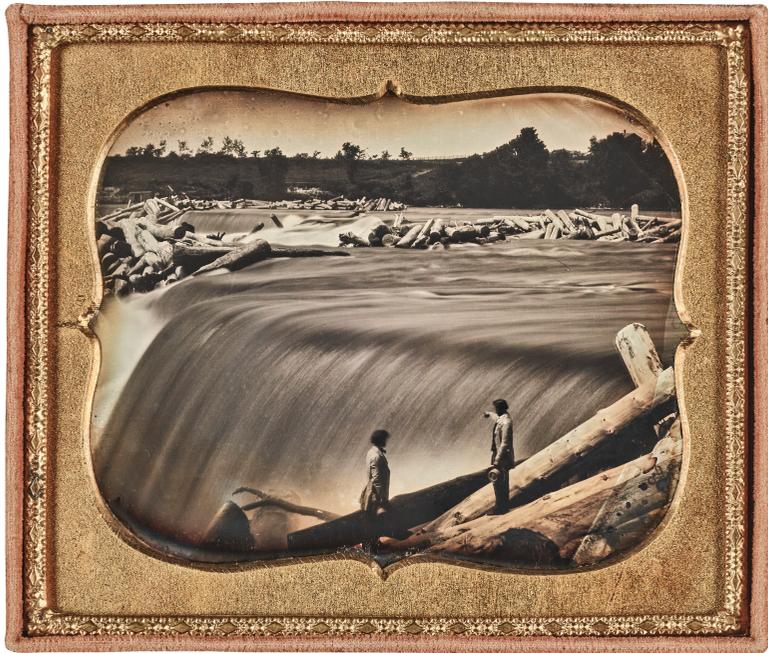


**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART**

The Scenic Daguerreotype with Grant B. Romer

September 25, 2025 • 6pm • Avery Theater
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Invented in France by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre in the 1830s, the daguerreotype rapidly became the first widely practiced photographic process worldwide. By 1853, photographers in the United States produced an estimated three million daguerreotypes a year, mostly capturing portraits. Between 1840 and 1860, an innovative language of scenic outdoor daguerreotypes developed despite the technical challenges of the process. Surviving examples of these jewel-like scenic daguerreotypes number in the few thousands. The eighty-three examples on view in the exhibition, *The Scenic Daguerreotype in America 1840–1860*, showcase the beginnings of American landscape photography and how pioneering daguerreotypists laid the foundation for the scenic and urban landscape tradition that would dominate American photography in the twentieth century. Tonight, Grant B. Romer, one of the leading authorities on early photography, illuminates the power of the scenic daguerreotype. Romer examines the breadth of outdoor views captured by daguerreotypists and explores how these vestiges of time and place offer insight into mid-nineteenth century America.



Above: Attributed to Alexander Hesler and Joel Whitney, *St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, c. 1852. Sixth plate daguerreotype. Collection of Greg French.

About the Lecturer



Grant Romer came to George Eastman House in 1975 upon entering the Graduate Photography Program at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He received his bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute where he began formal study of the history of photography in 1964 while a student of fine arts. Specializing in the history and practice of the daguerreotype, Romer began working with Alice Swan, then photograph conservator at George Eastman House. Following Swan's departure in 1978 and the establishment of the institution's conservation profile, Romer became its conservator. With a strong commitment to sharing the learning resources of the

Museum, he opened the laboratory to others through internships, contributing to the professional development of many of the international leaders in the field today. In response to a growing demand for learning opportunities in the specialty of photograph preservation, Romer established the Certificate Program in Photographic Preservation and Archival Practice at GEH in 1989, which eventually served as the basis for the current Advanced Residency Program in Photograph Conservation. In 2010, Romer retired from GEH and established the Academy of Archaic Imaging dedicated to the research and practice of historic applications of technology to rendering the visual experience. Romer is well known worldwide as a lecturer and author on many topics of photographic history and conservation.



Above, Top: Portrait of Grant B. Romer, courtesy of the scholar. **Above, Bottom:** Detail, *Factory*, c. 1850. Quarter plate daguerreotype. Collection of Greg French.