



## SUPPLÉMENT VIDÉO

Le biopic réalisé par Ellen Kuras nous raconte l'histoire de celle qui a témoigné à travers ses photographies marquantes de l'horreur de la Seconde Guerre mondiale et des camps de concentration.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES | ARTHUR LUBOW

# The many facets of Lee Miller

## The multifaceted Lee Miller

De mannequin pour *Vogue*, amie des surréalistes français, à reporter de guerre au cœur des camps de concentration allemands : c'est l'incroyable histoire de la photographe américaine Lee Miller, incarnée par l'épatante Kate Winslet dans un nouveau biopic, en salles ce mois-ci. Le film est basé sur *The Lives of Lee Miller*, livre écrit par le fils de l'artiste, Antony Penrose, qui a joué un rôle crucial dans la redécouverte et la reconnaissance de son œuvre avant-gardiste.

Lee Miller's reputation as an artist in her own right is due mostly to her son's discovery and promotion of her work. U.S. Army Official Photograph. (Wikimedia Commons)



**W**ith as many avatars as a Hindu god, Lee Miller appeared in her lifetime as a gorgeous fashion model, daring war photojournalist, and Man Ray's photographic assistant and lover. Last year, "Seeing Is Believing: Lee Miller and Friends", an exhibition at Gagosian in Manhattan, explored an overlooked aspect of this intriguing woman, as the longtime wife of Roland Penrose, an English surrealist painter, scholar and collector.

**2.** Drawn largely from the Penrose family's holdings at their farmhouse in East Sussex, England, where Miller lived from 1949 until her death in 1977, the show displayed the photographs Miller made alongside Man Ray in Paris in the '30s, as well as the fascinating surrealist-tinged landscapes she captured in Egypt later in that decade when she was married to her first husband, wealthy businessman Aziz Eloui Bey. And except for two prints, it omitted her most consequential work: the harrowing World War II photographs she took as a correspondent for *Vogue*, particularly of bombed-out buildings in London and the revenge killings, suicides, concentration camp corpses and other horrors in Germany in the aftermath of defeat.

**1. god deity / gorgeous** very beautiful / **daring** audacious, courageous / **overlooked** not noticed or taken into consideration / **scholar** academic, university professor.

**2. to draw (drew, drawn) from** to take (from) / **holdings** possessions / **to display** to exhibit, to present / **alongside** with / **tinged** tinted / **landscape** picture of natural scenery / **to capture (a photo)** to take / **decade** period of ten years / **wealthy** rich / **print** copy of a picture / **consequential** important / **harrowing** painful, distressing / **bombed-out** damaged by bombs / **revenge** vengeance, retaliation / **corpse** cadaver, dead body / **aftermath** period of time after a disaster.

**3.** Explaining his focus, Jason Ysenburg, who organized the show with Richard Calvocoressi, an art historian, said, "I thought the relationship with Roland Penrose was a very interesting one, and a lot of people didn't know about it." Amusing and gregarious, Miller also interacted with a broad network of artists, including Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, Joseph Cornell and Dora Maar, all of whom appear in the exhibition.

**4.** In her youth, Miller was so beautiful and charismatic that her artistic talent could easily be overlooked. Once she was older, drinking too much and often depressed, she avoided all discussion of her achievements as a photographer. As evidenced by Whitney Scharer's "The Age of Light," a widely reviewed fictionalized treatment of her life published in 2019, she is firstly remembered even today as the consort of Man Ray, a romantic relationship that lasted only three years.

**5.** That may be changing. A new movie, "Lee," stars Kate Winslet, who also coproduced. Based on "The Lives of Lee Miller," a biography written by Miller's son, Antony Penrose, the film more fully explores Miller's career as a wartime photographer. It testifies to the growing interest, in the nearly half century

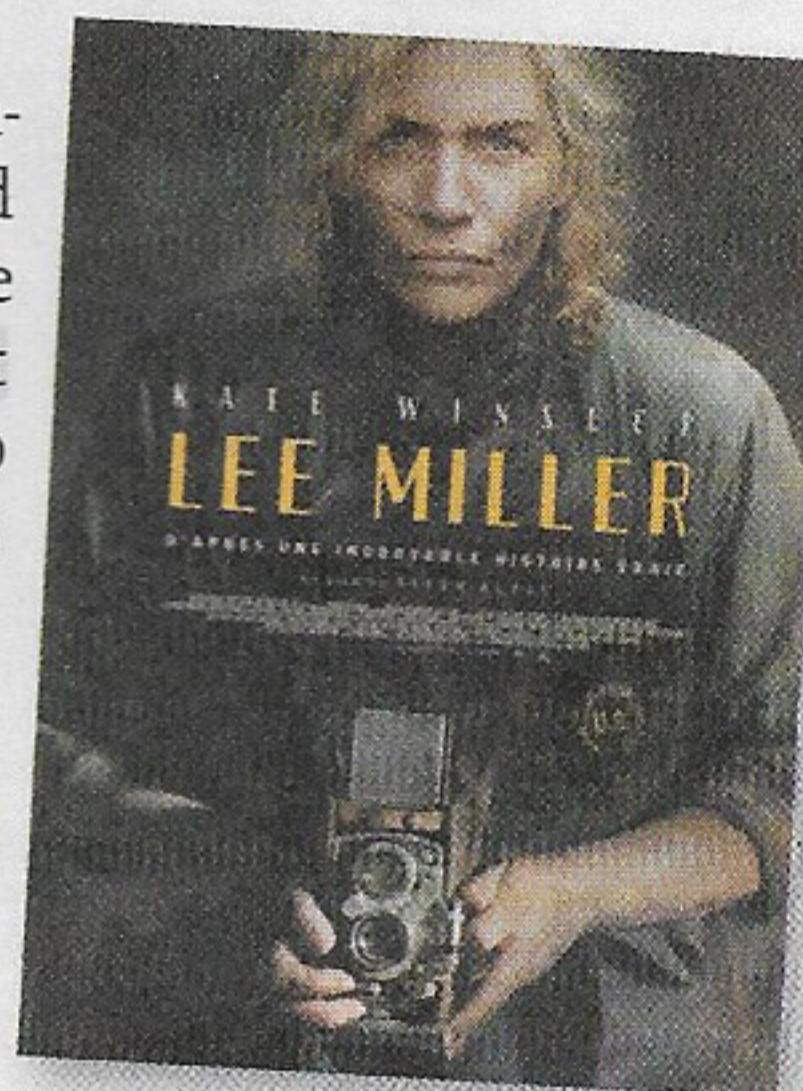
**3. gregarious** sociable, extroverted / **to interact** to communicate, engage in exchange / **broad** large / **network** group.

**4. youth** state or period of being young / **to avoid** to refrain from, to not do sth / **achievement** accomplishment / **to evidence** to prove / **to review** to critique / **fictionalized** imagined / **treatment** representation, adaptation / **to remember (as)** to think of / **consort** partner / **to last** to continue for.

**5. to star** to have as the principal actor/actress / **to coproduce** to produce a film with another person / **fully** completely, comprehensively / **to testify** to attest / **growing** rising, increasing / **century** period of 100 years /

since her death, in her convention-defying photography. "If she saw a frontier, she wanted to be on the other side of it, whether it was the frontier in Germany or the exclusion of women photojournalists," Antony Penrose said in an interview last month.

**6.** His appreciation of his mother came late. As a child and young man, he could only see her difficulties. "The slightest provocation would cause her to throw a scene and embarrass everyone, fully realizing she was alienating herself from the people whose affection she craved," he wrote in "The Lives of Lee Miller."



**7.** Only after she died did Antony acquaint himself with Miller's war reportage. His wife, Suzanna Penrose, found in the attic a dispatch Miller sent from the battle of Saint-Malo in 1944. "At first, I couldn't believe she had written it," he recalled. "Then Roland went and pulled out the copy of Vogue with her byline on it. In that moment I suddenly realized that I had gotten her wrong. I had thought of her as a useless drunk and hysterical figure. She was in fact a very accomplished and courageous woman."

## A rich legacy

**8.** In her later years, Miller turned away from professional photography and embraced cooking. Studying at the Cordon Bleu and elaborately entertaining guests at her farmhouse, Farleys, she also published some of her recipes in *Vogue*. When she used her camera, it was mainly to portray visitors: Picasso dandling Antony on his knee or

**convention-defying** unconventional, nonconformist / whether if.

**6. slight small / to throw a scene** to suddenly express a lot of emotion to attract attention / **to alienate oneself** to distance oneself / **to crave** to desire, to want very much.

**7. to acquaint oneself** to discover and learn more about / **attic** small space at the top of a house used for storage / **dispatch** message / **to recall** to remember / **to pull out** to take out / **byline** line below the title of a magazine/newspaper article with the author's name / **to get (got, gotten) sb wrong** to misunderstand sb / **useless** inept, stupid / **drunk** alcoholic / **figure** person.

**8. to turn away from** to abandon / **to embrace** to start doing sth with enthusiasm / **elaborately** in a very sophisticated way / **to entertain sb** here, to organise a dinner party for sb / **recipe** instructions/ingredients on how to prepare food / **mainly** principally, mostly / **to portray** to represent / **to dandle** to lightly bounce up and down on one's knee /

Museum of Modern Art director Alfred Barr Jr. feeding the hogs.

**9. Further** exploring his parents' relationship (Roland died in 1984), Penrose has just compiled and published a heavily illustrated book

of their correspondence, "Love Letters: Bound in Gold Handcuffs." (The title alludes to a set of handcuffs by Cartier that Roland gave to Lee during their courtship.) Although reading the love letters of other people can be as stultifying as listening to them recount their dreams, the volume also offers a generous sampling of Miller's photographs, including her underappreciated Egyptian landscapes.

**10. But** is Miller's reputation really enhanced by regarding her as a wife, muse and friend of the famous? Sometimes the challenge when considering an artist is appreciating the work unclouded by personal myths: van Gogh without the mutilated ear, Pollock without the drunken fatal car crash. After seeing the exhibition, the movie and reading the love letters, you should go back to the photographs, which constitute the achievement for which Miller is deservedly best remembered. ●

**to feed** to give food to / **hog** pig (male).

**9. further** (to do sth) even more / **to compile** to put together / **heavily** largely / **to bind (bound, bound)** to tie, to constrain, to attach / **handcuffs** pair of metal rings joined by a chain used by the police for holding the wrists of a criminal / **to allude to** to make reference to / **set** here, a pair / **courtship** romance / **although** even if / **stultifying** very boring / **to recount** to relate, to tell the story of / **sampling** selection.

**10. to enhance** to improve, to make better / **challenge** difficulty, problem / **unclouded** not confused / **drunken** here, as a result of being under the influence of alcohol / **deservedly** rightly, justifiably.



## Exposition

**an exhibition** une exposition  
**an exhibit** un objet, une œuvre exposée  
**to display** exposer  
**exhibition designer** concepteur/conceptrice d'exposition  
**exhibition curator** conservateur/conservatrice d'exposition

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