

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE



Unrecorded artist, title unknown, n.d.
Ambrotype, 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{18}$ in., The Jack Shear Collection of
Photography at the Tang Teaching Museum, 2017.41.12

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE: AMBROTYPE

Look closely: Examine the image closely.

Investigate: Take about 10–15 minutes to write down and/or discuss your observations. Here are some things to think about to help you get started:

- What are you noticing about this photograph? What do you notice about the image?
What do you notice about the physical object itself?
- The photographer and the subject are both unknown. How does this missing information affect the way you view this work?
- What type of personal story could you imagine about the artist behind this work?
What could you imagine for the subject depicted?
- How would you feel if you found yourself in possession of this photograph?
How does it speak to your own history or your understanding of history more broadly?

Explain your ideas about the artwork, including how you are understanding the image and why. What are you seeing that leads you to those ideas? Back up your ideas with visual evidence from the image. Ask yourself and others: What do you see that makes you say that?

Refer back to the image and look closer. What more can you find?

Reflect: What have you discovered from looking closely and writing and/or discussing the artwork with others? What did you discover about how you unpack and understand this image?

- What makes this object a work of art? What makes this photograph interesting?
- How does this work and the ideas that come from looking at this work relate to what's going on in your community and in the world today?
- What connections can you make between this work and our world right now or historically?