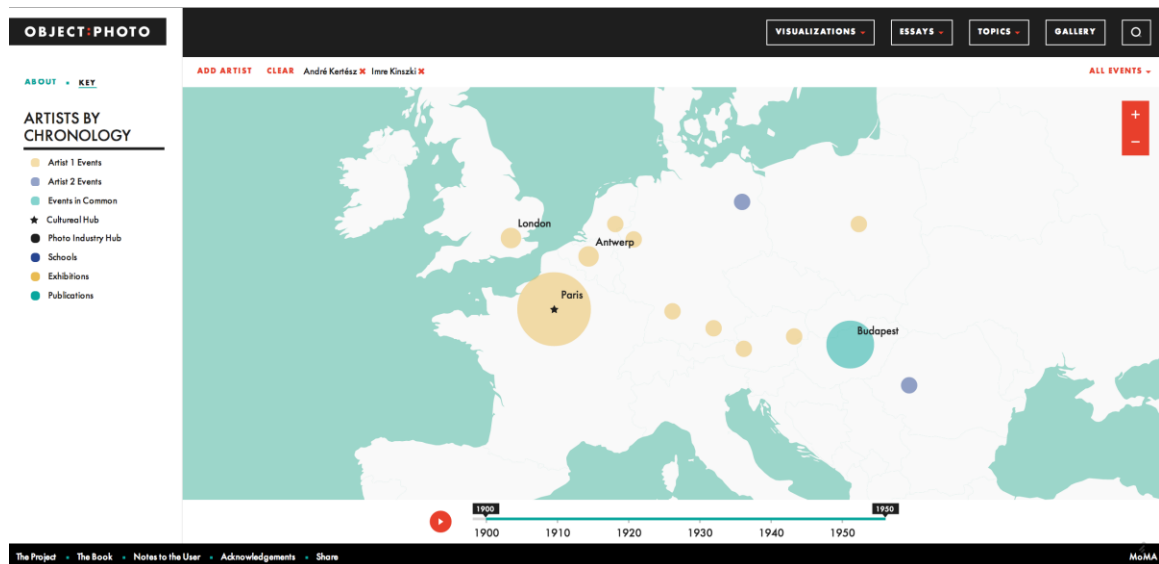


The Thomas Walther Collection held at The Museum of Modern Art focuses on photographic modernism in the 1910s, '20s, '30s, and '40s, through a group of 341 photographs. The Walther Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a four-year, research collaboration between the Departments of Photography and Conservation. It includes the participation of around 30 international scholars who explored and wrote on parts of the collection in depth. The project will conclude this December with the publication of a printed book and launch of an online research platform.

OBJECT: PHOTO, the online publication of the Walther Project, begins with the premise that each of the 341 pictures in the collection is a unique object. Often in digital and print publications, photographs are presented as squared, cropped images. The Walther Project moves away from considering the isolated image toward analyzing how techniques used to make the print could contribute to and change our historical understanding of the photograph.



By studying the materials and techniques, we can piece together aspects of an artist's practice that help researchers determine, for instance, if a particular print was made for an exhibition or reproduction and give us clues to its life after it was created. OBJECT:PHOTO online compiles these material attributes; historical attributes such as

an object's provenance, exhibition and publication history, and the city in which the negative was made; and biographical information about each of the nearly 150 artists represented in the collection. We have structured this research into thousands of data points that users can map, plot on a timeline, query, filter, and aggregate in data visualizations.

The Walther Project contributes to the growing field of digital humanities, which uses metadata and digital tools to yield new information that would have otherwise been difficult or impossible to reveal with traditional research techniques. In the United States, Yale University's Photogrammar website ([photogrammar.yale.edu](http://photogrammar.yale.edu)) and Stanford University's Mapping the Republic of Letters project (<http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>) both successfully use data visualizations to open new inquiries into large archives.

The screenshot displays a digital art gallery interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "OBJECT PHOTO" on the left and several menu items: "VISUALIZATIONS", "ESSAYS", "TOPICS", "GALLERY", and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a large photograph of a soccer player lying on the ground, with a soccer ball in the background. To the left of the main image is a sidebar with a "PHOTOGRAPH" section and a "SEE ALL" link. Below this, there is a smaller thumbnail of the same photograph. The sidebar also lists the artist's name, "Martin Munkácsi", and the title, "UNTITLED". Further down, it provides the date "1925-28", the medium "Gelatin silver print", and the print date "Print Date 1925-35". Below the main image, there is a caption area with the title "Untitled (The Defeated Goalkeeper) (Der besiegte Torwart)" and the date "1925-28". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with navigation links: "The Project", "The Book", "Notes to the User", "Acknowledgements", "Share", and the MoMA logo.

On December 9, 2014, The Museum of Modern Art will present the Thomas Walther Collection in 3 platforms: with the launch of the OBJECT:PHOTO website, publication of a print catalogue with plates and essays, and opening of an exhibition at the museum. The presentations compliment each other, offering various points of entry for learning about a collection of photographs. Wherever you are in the world on December 9<sup>th</sup>, we hope you will join us at [noma.org/objectphoto](http://noma.org/objectphoto) to begin exploring the experimentation and dynamism of modernist photography as represented in the Thomas Walther Collection.