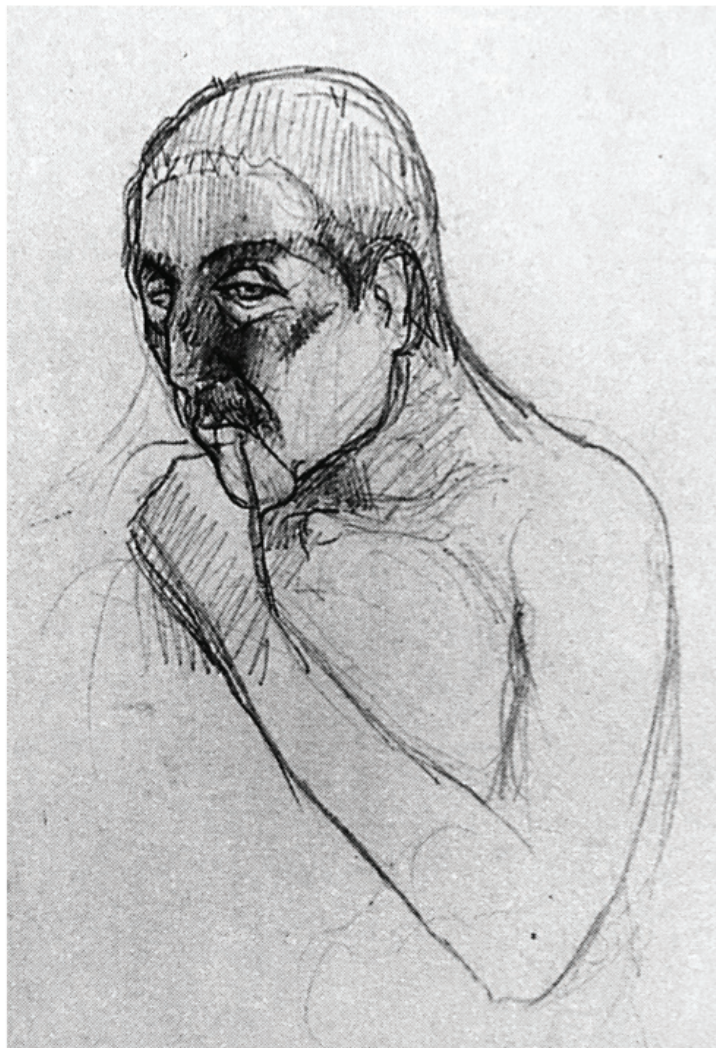


# The discovery of two Photographs showing Paul Gauguin in Tahiti

On the occasion of the presentation by Galerie Daniel Blau of the newly discovered photographs of Paul Gauguin in Tahiti at Galerie Meyer in Paris (<http://www.meyeroceanic.art/news>):

and the publication of „Paul Gauguin & the Marquesas“, by Caroline Boyle-Turner (<http://www.amazon.com/Paul-Gauguin-Marquesas-Caroline-Boyle-Turner/dp/B01BUV8856>):

Please find below a description and timeline of our discovery of the two, only known, photographs showing Paul Gauguin in French Polynesia.



Paul Gauguin, (the last?) Autoportrait, Paris, Musée d'Orsay, conservé au département des Arts graphiques du musée du Louvre, RF 43238

## Timeline of the discovery of two photographs showing Paul Gauguin in Tahiti.

In 2004 Adnan Sezer, a photography expert and dealer in Paris, alerted my wife Maria and me to a small album of photos taken in Tahiti c.1900.

This album contains a photo of a group of European men and local Tahitian women in Tahiti amongst many smaller personal photos of mostly Europeans in Tahiti. The size and quality of the group photo is different from the others. Studying the album, Maria discovered Gauguin in the group shot, hugging two wahine, kissing one on the cheek (1).



(1) Photo by Jules Agostini, © Daniel Blau, Munich, Paul Gauguin with Two Women in Tahiti, July 19, 1896

We subsequently published a b/w detail of this photograph in 2008 on page 159 of our book „Invention of Paradise, 1845-1870, Paul-Emile Miot“.

[http://www.hirmerverlag.de/uk/titel-3-0/paul\\_emile\\_miot-374/](http://www.hirmerverlag.de/uk/titel-3-0/paul_emile_miot-374/)

A colour image was published 2012 in „Paul Gauguin- Junge Kunst“ (Klinkhardt und Biermann).

[http://www.klinkhardtundbiermann.de/person-1-1/paul\\_gauguin-1116/](http://www.klinkhardtundbiermann.de/person-1-1/paul_gauguin-1116/)

Previously, in 2005 I had researched the Miot prints at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris (MQB) and also saw at that time a small album in their collections with another copy of „our“ (1) Gauguin photo in it. That album was made in Tahiti and came from the family of Governor Gallet.

Nobody could identify any of the people in the group, and none of the curators, or any of the colleagues or friends in the fields of Oceanic Art or photography were aware of Gauguin being present in this group photo. In fact, at this time, still no photograph of Gauguin in French Polynesia was known!

In 2007 I had asked Veronique Mu-Liepmann (then director of the Musée de Tahiti et des Îles in Papeete) to help identify some of the other persons in the group photo (without sending her an image of Gauguin or mentioning his name).

Even after we published the b/w image in 2008, there was only very mild interest. The picture in other words remained generally ignored.

In 2009 I asked Christine Barthe, Nanette Snoep (both curators at MQB) and Vincent Gille (at the time curator for the 2011 Gauguin exhibition at the Tate Modern) to help identify any of the people in the group. By then I had published the portrait in „Invention of Paradise“. I still received no information.

In July, 2015 I was fortunate enough to be able to purchase one of two Agostini studio albums at auction in France.

I knew that „our“ photo was in there as well as an additional one showing Gauguin in a different posture, plus the famous one of his house in Tahiti.



Photo by Jules Agostini, © Daniel Blau, Munich, The House of Paul Gauguin in Tahiti, 1896

The first Agostini album was preempted by the French Government for the MQB, the second – now mine – was allowed to leave the country.



(2) Photo by Jules Agostini, © Daniel Blau, Munich, Paul Gauguin in Tahiti, July 19, 1896

Since we had previously neither identified the photographer nor an exact date for the photo in the small private album, it was extremely important to finally recognize Agostini as the author and to find the date of July 19, 1896 associated with both group photos with Gauguin.

We know Gauguin had arrived September 1895 in Papeete from France and had shipped paintings from Papeete to France in July 1896.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2015/12/why-would-a-dissolute-rebel-like-paul-gauguin-paint-a-nativity/>

On July 14 he had left the hospital in Papeete (see the essay „Le Retour au Paradis“ by George Shackelford in „Gauguin – Tahiti“, Paris, Boston, 2004, cat. of the exhibition).

[https://books.google.de/books/about/Gauguin\\_Tahiti.html?id=tYLqAAAAMAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.de/books/about/Gauguin_Tahiti.html?id=tYLqAAAAMAAJ&redir_esc=y)

Therefore, since July of 2015 MQB is in the possession of a print of the second photo (2) of Gauguin and two copies of the first (1).

Still they were unaware that Gauguin is in any of them until we opened the exhibition in Paris on November 4, 2016.

Since then we have been contacted by Théano Jaillet, director of the Musée de Tahiti et des Îles in Papeete, who states that they have a copy of the first group photo (1) and „...did not notice Gauguin was in our photo as nothing about him appears on the database. And it is a good surprise for us (Woaw! We have a picture of Gauguin in the collection). „

Below are links relating to the exhibition:

<http://m.lalere.francetvinfo.fr/photos-unicques-paul-gauguin-tahiti-sont-exposees-paris-414971.html#xtref=https://www.google.fr/>

<http://www.meyeroceanic.art/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=149&tabindex=148&postid=38642&postcategoryid=-1>

[http://www.tntv.pf/Gauguin-photographie-a-la-Pointe-Venus\\_a15101.html](http://www.tntv.pf/Gauguin-photographie-a-la-Pointe-Venus_a15101.html)

<http://www.artsixmic.fr/deux-photographies-inconnues-datees-de-1896-de-gauguin-a-tahiti/>

<https://www.connaissancedesarts.com/photo/de-rarissimes-cliches-de-gauguin-a-tahiti-exposes-a-la-galerie-meyer-1156640/>

<http://art.niooz.fr/de-rarissimes-cliches-de-gauguin-a-tahiti-exposes-a-la-galerie-meyer-12108937.shtml#>

<http://www.meyeroceanic.art/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=149&tabindex=148&postid=38642&postcategoryid=-1>

<http://www.danielblau.com/events/2016/6869/>

<http://www.sfaquarelle.fr/?q=aggregator/sources/6>

<http://www.photosaintgermain.com/portfolio/galerie-daniel-blau-galerie-meyer-oceanic-eskimo-art/>