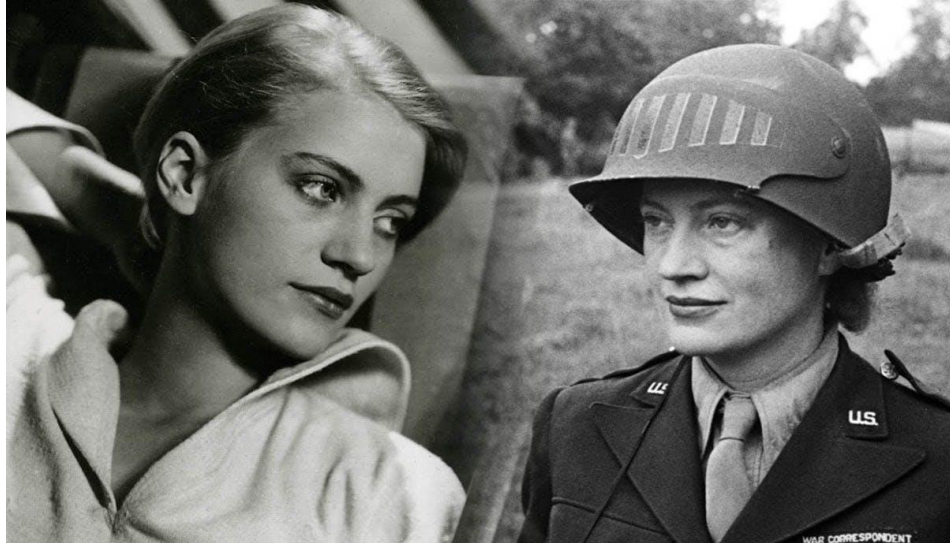


**#64 September  
2021  
Cameraderie  
Lee Miller (1907-  
1977)**



Lee Miller (Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, Lady Penrose) did everything. I don't know how I have left her out of this series for so long. She was a model, commercial photographer, war photographer, artistic innovator (especially in solarization), and collaborator with Man Ray (#7, June 2013). She was a model/muse/photographer of the avant-garde photography movement of her time; and was equally important as an influence on other photographers as she was a producer of her own work. She moved in high artistic circles, friendly with Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, and others. Her photographs were in shows alongside those of László Moholy-Nagy (#57, Jan. 2021), Cecil Beaton, Margaret Bourke-White (#5, April 2013), Tina Modotti (#63, July-Aug. 2021), Charles Sheeler, Man Ray, and Edward Weston (#1, Oct. 2012). She was represented in the monumental 1955 The Family of Man Exhibition (#22, Sept. 2017) curated by Edward Steichen (#9, Sept. 2013).

Here is her Wikipedia entry; it is very extensive and interesting, both artistically and personally: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee\\_Miller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Miller)

In addition, you can visit the Lee Miller Archive here: <https://www.leemiller.co.uk/>. The "Picture Library" contains thousands of her images.

Alternatively, you can Google her name and select "Images" to see a great number of images of and by her. But there are more than a dozen sub-topics—you might find special interest in "Picasso," "surrealism," "portrait," "fashion," "self-portrait," "modelling," "Paris," and "Egypt," among others. Here are some I find interesting:

Lee Miller by Man Ray, 1929, via The National Portrait Gallery, London



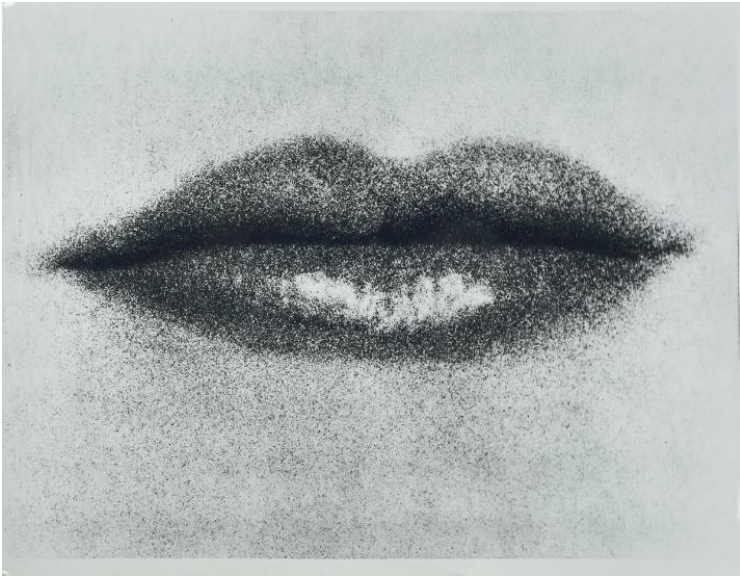
Miller became Man Ray's assistant and later collaborator. They shot a huge number of images of each other. This image of Miller by Ray is a prime example of the solarization technique that they both practiced.

Neck, by Man Ray and Lee Miller



Although this image of Miller was originally shot by Man Ray, its final effect was created by Miller, who cropped it to center erotically on her own neck in a way not present in the original larger-view image.

(Untitled, lips of Lee Miller) Man Ray 1930



See the following painting by Man Ray. Is there any doubt from where he got the lips?

Man Ray, Lips (Heure de l'Observatoire)



This painting by Man Ray is quite famous.



Lee Miller, *Portrait of Space, Nr Siwa, Egypt, 1937*, silver gelatin print, Lee Miller Archives



This reminds me considerably of Brett Weston's broken glass image (#51, June 2020) of negative space (below), but Miller's image places content in both the gauzy frame and the view.



Miller's WWII reporting was published in Vogue and the British edition of Vogue. Her relationship with Vogue started when, "At the age of 19 she nearly stepped in front of a car on a Manhattan street but was prevented by Condé Nast, the publisher of Vogue. This incident helped launch her modeling career." [Wikipedia article] Vogue hired her as a model, and the rest is history.

Lee Miller in a photograph she staged in Hitler's bathtub in Munich in 1945. Credit...Lee Miller Archives, England

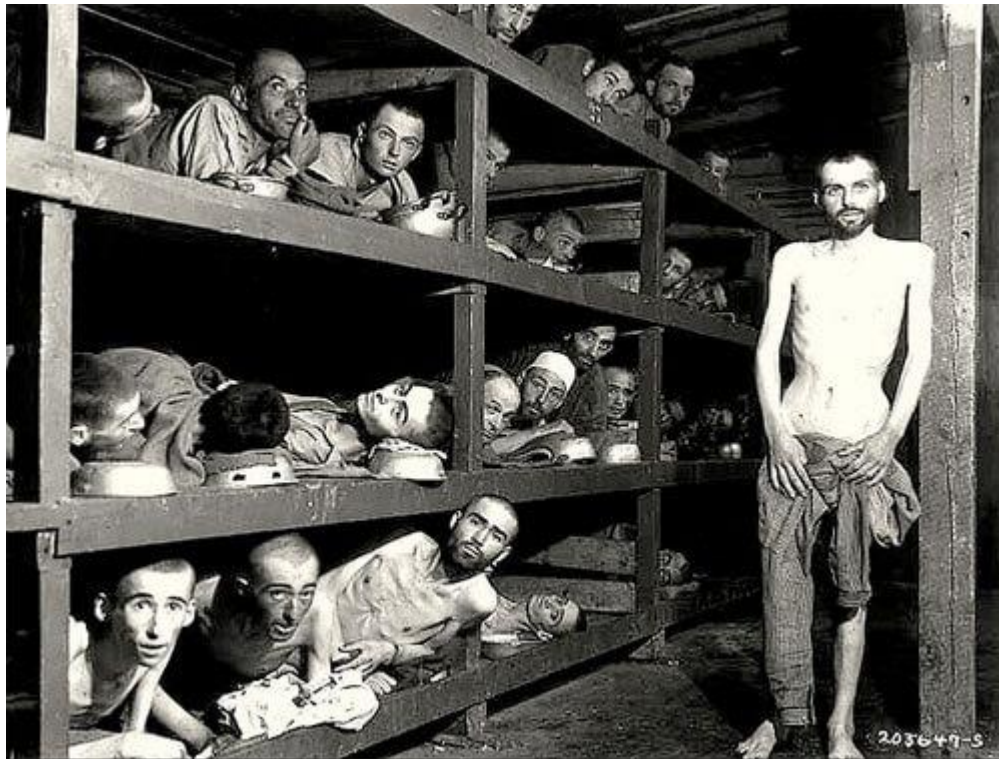


Miller was one of a handful of official women photographers in WWII. She freely wandered Hitler's residence shortly after his suicide. Note her deliberately placed dirty boots. This daring shot hints at her "do-anything" personality. I am pretty sure Hitler did not have a portrait of himself aside his bathtub, so that is probably staging by Miller. As to the small nude statue, I suspect Miller moved it from elsewhere in the apartment, echoing that she is similarly nude in the bathtub—note that both have their hair put up.

For further reading about Miller's WWII experience, including the bathtub image, see the following extensive article, which deeply analyzes war trauma, both in general and for Miller.

[https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/107989/content/JSA\\_VOL5\\_NO1\\_Pages98-119\\_Monahan.pdf](https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/107989/content/JSA_VOL5_NO1_Pages98-119_Monahan.pdf)

Survivors in Barrack 56 of the Little Camp, 16 April 1945



A great deal of Miller's war photography includes scenes of death and atrocity. This work had a permanent traumatic effect on her. As the Wikipedia article notes:

After returning to Britain from central Europe, Miller started to suffer from severe episodes of clinical depression and what later became known as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). ... [Later] However, images from the war, especially the concentration camps, continued to haunt her and she started on what her son later described as a "downward spiral".

This image is one of the milder images from Miller's war reporting, in that the prisoners are alive. The Lee Miller Archive (see link above) contains far more disturbing images, should you want to confront the record of atrocities that Miller compiled.