

The Photography of
FREDERICK A. COOK



An exhibition of worldwide exploration and adventure
as seen through the camera lens of Dr. Frederick A. Cook.

OPENING RECEPTION

JUNE 10, 2022

5PM - 7PM

AUTHOR'S TALK & BOOK SIGNING: 7PM

Julian Sancton

"Madhouse at the End of The Earth"

Frederick Cook is one of the most fascinating and controversial figures in the history of polar exploration. He is remembered today primarily for his disputed claims to having reached the North Pole and the summit of Denali in the first decade of the 20th century, and for his stint in Leavenworth penitentiary later in the 1920s. But many chapters of his novelistic life remain grossly underexplored. Among them is his passion for photography. A skilled autodidact, Dr. Cook created breathtaking images of the Polar Regions, which reveal a keen sense of composition, and a knack for harnessing the ever-shifting light of Earth's highest latitudes.

Cook first traveled to the Arctic in 1891 with Robert Peary (his future rival), who enlisted the doctor's help in photographing the Inuit of northern Greenland. The experience would inspire Cook's lifelong admiration for the practices and folkways of native people. He would lead six more expeditions to the Arctic, each time with a camera. "It is the duty of every explorer to present by word and picture the results of his discoveries." Hired as the physician of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-99, he took the first known photographs of the southernmost continent. He also served as the mission's ethnographer. In that role, he took numerous images of the indigenous people of Tierra del Fuego, including the Yamana and the Sel'knam. They remain precious documents of these long-lost tribes.

Julian Sancton
Author

"Madhouse at the End of the Earth"





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