

THE GALLERY OF

EVERYTHING

THE SNOWFLAKES OF WILSON BENTLEY

TUESDAY 1ST MARCH TO SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2022



Wilson Bentley (c 1900)



Nomad St Moritz
Chesa Planta
Mulins 2, 7503 Samedan
Grisons, Switerland

Office
+44 20 7486 8908
ge@gallevery.com

Opening Hours
Tuesday to Saturday
11am to 7pm
Sunday
11am to 5pm

Press
+44 20 7957 5323
pr@musevery.com

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The Gallery of **Everything** presents the inaugural Swiss exhibition of microphotographs by pioneering 19th Century American artist **Wilson Bentley**.

Wilson Snowflake Bentley was a farmer, entrepreneur, meteorologist and artist, who dedicated his life to the photography of snow.

Born in 1865 to a poor country family in Vermont, **Bentley's** imagination was first sparked by his mother's gift of a microscope on his 15th birthday. **Bentley** taught himself how to use the contraption, combined it with a Bellow's camera and embarked upon his creative journey.

By the age of 20, **Bentley** had taught himself how to immortalise the structure of frozen water on glass plates. Over the next 40 years he would assemble a vast encyclopaedia of scientific abstraction, photographing several thousands of individual snowflakes and frosts.

Bentley's achievements led to a greater understanding of the uniqueness, importance and beauty of this natural form. Yet **Bentley** was far more than a passionate hobbyist. He was a self-styled outlier and adventurer, who realised the potential of microphotography to capture the impossible individuality of each and every crystalline flake.

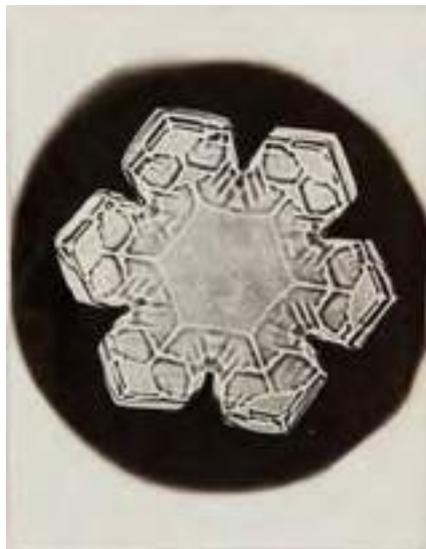
In his lifetime, **Bentley** proselytised his discoveries across the United States, sending prints and plates to Museums, Universities and more. The public and press championed his achievements; yet the scientific and cultural communities of the time were often reluctant to welcome the innovations of this pioneering image-maker.

Today, over one hundred years later, **Bentley's** photographs are celebrated not simply as science, but as art. His microphotographs are featured in numerous public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The Morgan Library & Museum and the Smithsonian.

Recent exhibitions include Massimiliano Gioni's *The Keeper* at the New Museum in New York (2016) and the Museum of **Everything** in Rotterdam (2016) and Australia (2017/18).

Wilson Bentley died of pneumonia after being caught in a snowstorm in 1931. This is his first exhibition in Switzerland.

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Wilson Bentley *untitled* (c 1900 – 1920)
vintage microphotograph
10.2 x 7.6 cm / 4 x 3"

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THE GALLERY OF **EVERYTHING**
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The Gallery of **Everything** is a platform for alternative, neurodiverse and non-academic art-makers. Its roster includes contemporary and historic art brut, so-called outsider artists, and vernacular objects from the 1800s to the present day.

The gallery engages with a wide network of institutions, artists and curators to place material into major private and public collections. Proceeds support The Museum of **Everything**, a non-profit organisation and the world's only itinerant institution for artists and makers beyond the cultural mainstream.



THE MUSEUM OF **EVERYTHING**
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The Museum of **Everything** opened in London in 2009 and has welcomed over a million visitors to its large-scale installations in Britain, Europe, Russia, America and Australia.

As the UK's leading advocate for non-academic and private art-making, the museum functions as an international exhibitor, archive and activist, collaborating with artists, curators, writers and institutions. These include Tate Modern, Hayward Gallery (UK), Pinacoteca Agnelli (Italy), Kunsthal Rotterdam (Holland) and Garage (Russia).

The Museum of **Everything** is known for its immersive installations, which it designs, curates & installs. Also a lobbyist for the inclusion and display of all forms of non-canonical art. In 2013 it partnered with the 55th Venice Biennale, during which it was profiled by the BBC in *Turning the Art World Inside Out*.