

## 139 Anne Brigman

*“Fear is the greatest chain which binds women and prevents their development, and fear is the one apparently big thing which has no foundation in life. Cast fear out of the lives of women and they can and will take their place ... as the absolute equal of man.”*

Anne Brigman, from the San Francisco Call newspaper, 1913

Anything but fearful, Brigman was a revolutionary photographer, proto-feminist, poet and suffragist--and the first known woman to take nude self-portraits.

Starting in the early 1900s, Brigman photographed herself naked in the remote Sierra Nevada mountains, amid craggy rocks and twisted junipers. A pioneer of photographic modernism, she broke “women artist” boundaries and limitations and was one of the few females invited to join the distinguished Photo-Secessionist group.

My figure with her mangled left breast mirrors Brigman’s work and her own body; she often concealed her scarred left breast in nude self-portraits.