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## Dada's Nude Mama

by Blake Gopnik

Dec 5, 2012 7:15 PM EST

The Daily Pic: Marcel Duchamp's reworked photo of his most famous painting, a steal at \$15 million.

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(Courtesy Michael Rosenfeld Gallery)

After a day running around the Art Basel fair in Miami Beach, I came back to tried-and-true Marcel Duchamp for today's Daily Pic. [Michael Rosenfeld's](#) booth for \$15 million. It's a photo of Duchamp's semi-Cubist "Nude Descending A Staircase" (a painting that showed at the 1913 Armory show) which Duchamp lightly reworked with pencil, watercolor and white pastel, probably around 1917 as a "study" for a later version of the "Nude" that Duchamp painted for his patrons Louise and Walter Arensberg, but I can't help feel that it blurs the distinction between photography and the hand-made, between originals and reproductions. In which case this ought to be a fully complete work by Duchamp, and one that's arguably more complex than the paintings it relates to.

For a full visual survey of past Daily Pics visit [blakegopnik.com/archive](http://blakegopnik.com/archive).

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Blake Gopnik writes about art and design for *Newsweek* and The Daily Beast. He previously spent a decade as chief art critic and before that was an arts editor and critic in Canada. He has a doctorate in art history from Oxford University, and has written ranging from Facebook to gastronomy.

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