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Germans of a Certain Age

■ Don't pass up this opportunity to see 26 selections from German photographer August Sander's iconic portraits of his countrymen, all shot between 1910 and 1940. Though the cataloguing of a people — Germans, no less — foretells the Third Reich's ugliest undercurrents, Sander intended his subjects as examples, not exemplars; witness a pair of wrestlers who come off like Diane Arbus-worthy oddballs. Between the earnest pharmacists and innkeepers lie moments of humor, too: the orderly row of teens clad in athletic club whites look both embarrassed and sullen; a village schoolteacher could be a caricature of whip-cracking authority. Also on view, John Grant's images of flowers with petals as translucent as skin. His secret is a scanner, not a camera, that captures the images. The process underscores the flowers' three-dimensionality; they appear to advance right up to the picture plane.

August Sander and John Grant at Kathleen Ewing Gallery, 1767 P St. NW, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., to 202-328-0955, Oct. 27. www.kathleenewinggallery.com



A 1921 photo of a village teacher by August Sander.

KATHLEEN EWING GALLERY