

THE GUST AKERLUND PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



Looking for a unique locale for taking pictures or a fun day trip for you and your fellow photographers? Do we have the place for you!

From 1902 through 1950, Gust Akerlund chronicled the lives and times of the Cokato-area residents through his camera's versatile lens. Listed on the National Register, his is the only fully-restored early twentieth century photo studio in the entire Upper Midwest. If you want a fascinating glimpse into photography during the first half of the 20th Century, the Akerlund Studio is just the place.



Operated by the Cokato Museum, the Studio contains nearly all of Akerlund's original furnishings, camera equipment, and other items that chronicle not just his story, but the story of photography.

This view shows the posing room, illuminated by an 8' x 12' skylight.

In addition to the studio, the Museum houses his negative collection of over 14,000 images.

This collection includes nearly 11,400 glass plate negatives; one of the largest from a single source to be found at any museum in Minnesota.



But try not to think of the Studio as a static artifact.

We use it just as Akerlund intended — a location for taking photographs.

At right is from an effort by our regional library system to take photos of families in the area for a digital “Family Album”.



The Studio is a popular spot for school and group tours, who marvel at the differences between how we take pictures now, and how it was done in the days of Mr. Akerlund. Here, museum staff walks a class through the process of making a picture with the glass plate “technology” and natural light exposure.

As those whose passion is also photography, we want you to come here and enjoy what the studio offers. We want you to come here and see for yourself the Studio and all its features. We want you to come here and take pictures using the furnishings which Akerlund used for nearly half-a century.



So what are you waiting for? Contact us and arrange a time to stop by and visit the Studio. We can be reached at:

Cokato Museum
175 Fourth Street SW
PO Box 686
Cokato MN 55321
Phone: 320-286-2427
E-mail: info@cokatomuseum.org

Find us on Facebook at: *Cokato Museum & Akerlund Photo Studio*; or on Twitter @CokatoMuseum.

The Studio is available for rent by professional photographers.

Feel free to pass this along to anyone you know who may find a visit to the Studio a great time and let us know if you have any questions or thoughts or comments.



Cathy Wurzer, Minnesota Public Radio,
January 2016, (Used with permission.)



Unidentified and definitely adorable
child, probably 1920s.