

The Museum of Modern Art

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**PICTURES OF THE TIMES: A CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM
THE NEW YORK TIMES
June 27 - October 8, 1996**

An exhibition that reveals the diversity, vitality, and evolution of news photography in *The New York Times* opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 27, 1996.

PICTURES OF THE TIMES: A CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM *THE NEW YORK TIMES* includes 154 black-and-white photographs of major world events, human-interest stories, and natural and man-made disasters, as well as politicians, celebrities, and sports figures. In conjunction with the exhibition, The New York Times Collection at the Museum is being established with a gift of 300 photographs from *The New York Times*. The exhibition is supported in part by The New York Times Company Foundation.

PICTURES OF THE TIMES, which continues through October 8, 1996, is one of four exhibitions being organized at New York cultural institutions to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Adolph S. Ochs's purchase of *The New York Times*. The centennial celebration, titled "Adolph S. Ochs: The Man Who Changed The Times," features concurrent shows at the American Museum of Natural History ("Scientists and Journalists—One Story, Two Voices: A Century of Science Reporting at *The New York Times*"), The New York Public Library ("Headlines, Deadlines, Bylines: *The New York Times* Morgue, 1896-1996"), and The Pierpont Morgan Library ("Documenting The Times: Adolph S. Ochs and the Early Years of *The New York Times*"). The Centennial Celebration Chairperson is Susan W. Dryfoos, Director, New York Times History Productions. The

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Vice Chairperson is Arthur Gelb, President, The New York Times Company Foundation, and former Managing Editor of *The New York Times*.

"We are delighted to participate in this celebration of *The New York Times*'s anniversary," states Glenn D. Lowry, Director, The Museum of Modern Art, "and we are tremendously pleased that it initiates The New York Times Collection at The Museum of Modern Art."

Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, and Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, working with staff at the Museum and at the *Times*, selected pictures for the exhibition from the more than five million photographs in the Picture Library at *The New York Times*. "In subject, style, and date the pictures are enormously diverse," states Mr. Galassi, "but they all share the gripping immediacy that makes photography both an indispensable presence in the daily paper and a vital part of history."

Arranged chronologically, PICTURES OF THE TIMES explores the twentieth century and the city of New York through the eyes of a distinguished newspaper. The images capture pivotal moments in history -- the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald (1963) and a footprint on the moon (1969) -- as well as everyday events in the life of the city. Vivid images of such figures as Hitler, Churchill, Houdini, Einstein, Coolidge, Nixon, and LaGuardia are presented among scenes of train wrecks, murders, beauty queens, Halley's Comet, and a close play at home plate. In other photographs, Russia's last czar strolls with his family (1906-08), the Wright brothers circle the Statue of Liberty (1909), a gaping hole made by an errant B-25 bomber mars the facade of the Empire State Building (1945), and citizens of Sarajevo grieve over a fallen companion (1995).

The exhibition includes "Pictures in the *Times*: Today's Technology," a short video presentation by David Frank, assistant to the Picture Editor at *The New York Times*.

Presenting a selection of international news pictures transmitted via satellite by the Associated Press in the course of one day, the video simulates the process by which *Times* picture editors, working at computer monitors, review, select, and crop photographs for the newspaper. It is made possible by the generous cooperation of *The New York Times*, the Associated Press, @radical.media, and Photo Systems, Inc.

The publication accompanying the exhibition, *Pictures of the Times: A Century of Photography from The New York Times*, features full-page reproductions of all of the photographs in the exhibition. An introductory essay by *Times* columnist William Safire examines the role of photography in the news and tells the inside story of a famous news picture. An essay by Peter Galassi explores diverse strategies -- and meanings -- of newspaper photography. The publication concludes with an extensive chronology that traces the rise of photography in news, giving emphasis to developments at *The New York Times* and to recent advances in digital technologies.

A symposium in conjunction with the exhibition will be held Thursday, June 27, at 7:00 p.m. in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1 at The Museum of Modern Art. Moderated by Glenn D. Lowry, it addresses the role of photography in the news, the ways in which news photographs are gathered and chosen, and their character as documents of history. Participants include A. M. Rosenthal, Associate Editor and columnist, and Carolyn Lee, Assistant Managing Editor and former Picture Editor, *The New York Times*; Carol Squiers, critic and Senior Editor, *American Photography*; and Stuart Ewen, Professor and

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Chair of Media Studies, Hunter College, and Professor of History and Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center. Tickets will be available at the lobby information desk.

Publication

Pictures of the Times: A Century of Photography from The New York Times. Edited by Peter Galassi and Susan Kismaric. Essays by William Safire and Peter Galassi. 192 pages; 170 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Hardbound \$39.95, distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and paperbound, \$22.50, both available in The MoMA Book Store.

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For further information or photographic materials please contact the Department of Communications, 212/708-9750.