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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORK OF THREE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS EXHIBITED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Work of three young photographers who have come to the fore during and since World War II will be shown in a group exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, beginning Wednesday, October 1, and continuing through November 30. The exhibition has been arranged by Edward J. Steichen, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography.

The work of the group is representative of a growing number of social-minded photographers who use the camera to record, interpret, and comment on what they see and experience. Each is represented by a series of prints on a theme or an assignment. The subjects, with the photographer's comments, are as follows:

Leonard McCombe: DISPLACED PERSONS

I use photography as a writer uses a typewriter. My interest is people. I want my work to be thought-provoking rather than entertaining.

Wayne Miller: THE BEGINNING

As a title for this series I can think of only one: "The Beginning." To me, it represents not only the beginning of a child's life, but a life for the mother, for the family, and for society.

I should like to think that through photographs of the emotions of everyday living, common to all men, it will be possible to explain man to man.

Homer Page: AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO 1946

I go out and react to people and to things, and try to catch that reaction with my camera.

As far as the Legion photographs are concerned, I must say I went out with a question on my mind; I expected to find the answer to that question in front of my camera. The question was: What kind of men are these, who meet a year after the close of the second World War, to declare their faith in 'Militant Democracy'?

Mr. Steichen comments upon the work of these three young photographers as follows:

"Leonard McCombe's series of Displaced Persons reveals things that are never told by statistics. Statistics furnish the multiplying factor. Here is the stark horror of pain, privation, humiliation and the hopelessness and despair of displaced human beings. Here at times, the shutter of the camera closed but an instant ahead of death.

"Wayne Miller's series The Beginning is photographs of the face of his wife while she was giving birth to their son David. They are camera images that take on something of the stature of a great epic poem.

"Homer Page's series of the American Legion Convention, San Francisco, 1946, is an objective statement, the reactions to what he saw. The reactions do not become insistent as they would in the work of a cartoonist who might use caricature as a means of emphasizing his statement. We are able to look at incisive images as if we were actually on the spot at the time."

The exhibition THREE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS may be made available for circulation by the Museum.

Leonard McCombe

- Born 1923 Isle of Man, England
- 1941 Photo-journalist, PICTURE POST of England
- 1944 Part-time camera man for Britain's POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE and LONDON NEWS CHRONICLE
- 1945 Assignments by LIFE Magazine to Poland, Germany, France
- 1946 Came to U.S.A. for LIFE

Wayne Miller

- Born 1918 September 19. Raised in Chicago.
- 1940 Graduated from University of Illinois with B.S. in Banking and Finance....Attended Art Center School in Los Angeles Sept., 1940 - June, 1941.
- 1941 Photographer in Aviation Unit, U.S. Navy.
- 1946 Began work in Chicago photographing "The Way of Life of the Northern Negro" made possible by fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation

Homer Page

- Born 1918 Oakland, California, August 4.
- 1936-40 University of California
- 1940-41 School of Design (New Bauhaus) Chicago
- 1941-44 Shipyards, Richmond, California
- 1944-45 Commercial Photography, San Francisco
- 1945-47 Photographer, Associated Students of the University of California, Berkeley