

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Diogenes With a Camera V, an exhibition of about 50 photographs each by Bill Brandt, Lucien Clergue and Yasuhiro Ishimoto, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, September 25 through November 12. Edward Steichen, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, who conceived this fifth Diogenes exhibition, initiated the series in 1952 "to indicate photography's contribution to the search for truth."

Bill Brandt, the widely known British photographer, is represented in the exhibition by selections from his "Perspective of Nudes," described by Lawrence Durrell as "a prolonged meditation on the mystery of forms." Using an old wooden camera, shutterless, with a wide angle lens and an aperture the size of a pinhole, Brandt achieved what he called "an altered perspective and a less conventional image." He hoped through his ancient apparatus to see "perhaps like a mouse, a fish or a fly." Taken since 1945, the photographs, at first romantic, become increasingly stylized, abstract, and sculptural.

The photographs of Lucien Clergue, a young Frenchman whose work shows a pre-occupation with themes of decay and death, include vivid, desolate studies called "l'Etange" - reflections of trees and dead branches in a swamp, gnarled roots which appear engaged in combat. Also, in strong contrasts of black and white, are silhouettes of corn blown by the wind; mutilated bulls in a corrida; Harlequins reminiscent of Picasso's blue period; and animals and nudes in the sea, caught in the movement of the surf.

Yasuhiro Ishimoto, born in San Francisco, has lived and worked both in Japan and in the United States. In his section of the current exhibition are photographs of people affected by city phenomena - partially demolished buildings, traffic, billboards, and the clutter of the slums. Ishimoto seems particularly sympathetic toward children, and there is, among others, a remarkable series in which they are seen weirdly made up for Halloween. In a different vein, he has contributed a group of photographs depicting the peace and elegance of the Katsura palace near Kyoto, Japan.

Grace M. Mayer, Associate Curator of the Department of Photography, and Kathleen Haven assisted Mr. Steichen with the exhibition. Miss Haven also designed the installation.

Photographs and additional information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900.