

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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FOR RELEASE:

Friday, Oct. 19, 1962

A symposium on the Farm Security Administration photography project will be given at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, October 25, at 8:30 p.m. Speakers are Roy E. Stryker, Director of the F.S.A. historical section; and three F.S.A. photographers: Russell Lee, Arthur Rothstein, and Ben Shahn. René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, is moderator. The symposium is held in connection with The Bitter Years: 1935-1941, an exhibition of 200 photographs selected by Edward Steichen from 270,000 taken for the F.S.A. to record the plight of the farm population during the Great Depression.

Tickets, \$2.25 for Museum members, \$3.00 for non-members, include admission to the Museum, open Thursdays until 9:00 p.m. Dinner and refreshments are available.

For the F.S.A. project, one of the most important and successful visual documentations ever undertaken by any government, Roy E. Stryker assembled a team of young men and women, many of whom are now leading figures in the field of photography. Their historic survey of rural areas and small towns of America revealed the trials of the depression years through photographs of dust-storms, drought and erosion, and of farmers driven to migratory work by the mechanization of agriculture. Their purpose was to bring the events of the period to public attention through visual means.

In the symposium, Mr. Stryker and his former colleagues will discuss the motivations and problems of the F.S.A. project and its implications for today.

Two programs of F.S.A. films will also be shown at the Museum in connection with The Bitter Years exhibition: Thursday, November 8, at 8:00 p.m., The Home Place (1941), The River (1937), and The Plow That Broke the Plains (1936); Thursday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m., The Power and the Land (1940) and The Land (1942). Admission to the Museum, \$1.00, includes the film showings.

Photographs and additional information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.