

THE LILLIE P. BLISS INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Center's public study facilities for photography were established in 1964 with the opening of The Edward Steichen Photography Center, providing permanent exhibition space, a study-storage area for the 10,000 photographs in the Collection, and an important library of books, periodicals, and miscellaneous research material.

RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

10,000 photographs -- only a small fraction on view in the Museum galleries or on loan.

4,000 books, monographs, historical surveys, catalogues, etc., concentrating on 20th-century photography.

Biographical information from questionnaires, clippings, exhibition records, miscellaneous correspondence, etc., on individual photographers.

Subject card file for library material.

Most of this material is available for study without restrictions to students, teachers, photographers, and other interested public, by appointment.

EXAMPLES OF USE OF THE FACILITIES:

A class of photography students comes in with instructor; Department procedures and facilities are described and representative material shown to stimulate further individual study.

For the NYU School of the Arts, Institute of Film and Television, the Department's staff gives a course in the history of still photography, using the Center's resources, especially its collection of original prints.

A visiting museum curator studies the Department's facilities and collection to help determine collecting priorities for his own museum, reflecting an increasing interest in photography in the museum world.

Authors of textbooks, students doing research, writers on photography, and photographers all make use of the facilities.

About 85 people per month visit the center.

The emphasis of the Center is on the imagery, rather than technique, of individual photographers as artists, and on the visual syntax of photography in general. Its purpose is to increase our understanding of the role that photography has played in defining the character and meaning of modern vision.

(more)

Staff:

John Szarkowski, Director
 Grace M. Mayer, Curator
 Peter C. Bunnell, Curatorial Associate
 Josephine Bush, Curatorial Assistant
 Bruce K. MacDonald, Curatorial Intern
 Patricia M. Walker, Secretary
 Thomas Lovcik, Collections Clerk

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director,
 Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street,
 New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.