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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART INITIATES PLANS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces the formation of a Committee on Photography which will discuss plans for the establishment of a Department of Photography for the Museum.

The Committee consists of David H. McAlpin, Chairman; Ansel Adams, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Walter Clark, Laurance Rockefeller, James Thrall Soby, John E. Abbott, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Beaumont Newhall. Mr. Adams, noted California photographer, has been retained by the Committee as consultant and has been in New York for the past month discussing with the Director and certain members of the Museum staff the general subject of the projected department.

The Museum hopes to announce plans for the department about the first of the year and will at that time hold an Exhibition of Fifty Photographs, selected chiefly from its own Collection. The exhibition will open to the public Friday, December 27, and will remain on view for approximately two weeks.

A Department of Photography was proposed when the Museum was organized in 1929 but no active steps were taken for its establishment. The Museum has for years, however, included photography as one of the modern arts in its exhibitions. In March and April 1937 it gave over the entire Museum to a very large exhibition devoted exclusively to the subject: Photography, 1839-1937. It has also held several smaller exhibitions, notably Walker Evans: American Photographs and Seven American Photographers. In addition it has circulated throughout the country numerous exhibitions on photography.