

The Museum of Modern Art

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MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES *AMERICAN POLITICIANS* EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a major catalogue to accompany the exhibition **AMERICAN POLITICIANS: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 1843 TO 1993**, on view at the Museum from October 6, 1994, to January 3, 1995. Written by Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, and organizer of the exhibition, the publication traces how photography has pictured -- and helped transform -- the American politician. *American Politicians: Photographs from 1843 to 1993* has been supported in part by a grant from Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro.

In her essay, beginning with the first photographs of political figures in the United States -- daguerreotypes from the 1840's -- Ms. Kismaric traces the changing relationship between the politician and the photographer, and the technological changes that accompanied this evolving relationship. She also examines such issues as how political photographs have been disseminated, how picture agencies and wire services developed, and the rise and decline of the magazine photo essay as television became politicians' principal image-making tool. A major theme of her book is how the combination of restricted access to political figures in the wake of the political assassinations of the 1960's, and the increasingly sophisticated control by politicians of their images, has made it difficult for contemporary photographers to get close enough to their subjects, both physically and psychologically, to make compelling images.

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The catalogue essay is richly illustrated by 197 photographs that span a century and a half of political activity, with original captions when available. Included in the catalogue is a chronology that places the photographs in context by noting advances in photographic technology and transmission. The chronology also cites dates marking events affecting the image of the American politician.

American Politicians contains 208 pages and includes 197 duotone reproductions. The hardbound edition (\$39.95), distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and the paperbound edition (\$19.95) are available at The MoMA Book Store.

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For further information or photographic materials, please contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.