

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

May 1964

JOHN SZARKOWSKI, DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

John Szarkowski was named Director of the Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art July 1, 1962. Since then he has presented four shows at the Museum: a ten-year retrospective of Ernst Haas' color photography; Five Unrelated Photographers (Ken Heyman, George Krause, Jerome Liebling, Minor White, and Garry Winogrand); The Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue; and The Photographer and The American Landscape. The latter two shows were accompanied by illustrated catalogs. His major show is The Photographer's Eye, the largest of the exhibitions inaugurating the Museum's new galleries and remodeled building.

Mr. Szarkowski is in charge of the Edward Steichen Photography Center at the Museum as well as temporary loan shows of photography. The Center includes galleries for the exhibition of a rotating selection of about 200 photographs from the 7,000 in the Photography Collection, archive space where the rest of the collection will be available and a specialized library.

Describing the role of the Museum in photography, Mr. Szarkowski says that "... initiative belongs to the artists and not to the museum. The future photography program of the Museum of Modern Art is as unpredictable as ~~the outcome of the searches and experiments~~ of a thousand serious photographers. The Museum will try to remain alertly responsive to these searches, and to seek out and publish that work which makes a relevant human statement with the intensity that identifies a work of art."

Before joining the Museum staff, Mr. Szarkowski had taught photography at the University of Buffalo and at the University of Minnesota, and had served as associate editor of the Walker Art Center's Quarterly. He has received two Guggenheim fellowships for his own photography. With the aid of

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the first, he produced The Idea of Louis Sullivan (1956), published by the University of Minnesota Press. The second allowed him to photograph the Quetico-Superior wilderness of Western Ontario in 1961, for a book in progress. He is the author and photographer of The Face of Minnesota (1958), which was financed by a grant and also published by the University of Minnesota Press. He was born in Ashland, Wisconsin in 1926, graduated with a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. He is married to the former Jill Anson.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 CI 5-8900.