

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 75
JUNE 30, 1971

JOHN SZARKOWSKI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

John Szarkowski was appointed Director of the Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art on July 1, 1962. Since then he and his staff have done more than 40 exhibitions at the Museum. Among those directed by Mr. Szarkowski are The Photographer and the American Landscape (1963), The Photographer's Eye (1964), The Photo Essay (1965), Once Invisible (1967), New Documents (1967) and retrospective exhibitions of the work of André Kertész (1964), Dorothea Lange (1966), Cartier-Bresson (1968), Brassai (1968), Bill Brandt (1969), Eugene Atget (1969) and, most recently, Walker Evans (1971). Many of these exhibitions have been circulated throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.

Mr. Szarkowski has also been responsible for the continuing series of smaller exhibitions devoted to a single artist or theme which has been presented in the Edward Steichen Photography Center since May 1965. The series has included exhibition of the work of Aaron Siskind, Frances Johnston, Marie Cosindas, Jerry N. Vetsmann, Ray K. Metzker, Garry Winogrand, Joel Meyerowitz, Elliott Erwitt, Bill Gedney, Berenice Abbott and Duane Michaels.

In addition to the exhibition program, Mr. Szarkowski directs the development of the Museum's growing collection of more than 15,000 photographic prints dating from about 1840 to the present day. A rotating selection of about 200 photographs from the collection is continuously on view in the Edward Steichen Photography Center; the rest are available to students, scholars and the interested public along with archive material. A recent major acquisition to the photography collection is the Atget Collection, consisting of several thousand original prints and approximately 1,000 negatives by the 20th-century French master.

Books written by Mr. Szarkowski for the Museum include The Photographer's Eye, published in December, 1965, investigating through text and pictures photographic style and tradition; The Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue (1963); The Photographer and the American Landscape (1963) and André Kertész: Photographer (1964). Mr. Szarkowski wrote the introductory essay

(more)

for E. J. Bellocq: Storyville Portraits (photographs printed from the original negatives by Lee Friedlander) and for The Animals by Garry Winogrand, both also published by the Museum. Mr. Szarkowski's most recent book is Walker Evans, just published in conjunction with the Museum exhibition.

Mr. Szarkowski has taught the History of Photography to graduate students of New York University's Institute of Film and Television. He has lectured widely and contributed to many periodicals.

Before joining the Museum staff, Mr. Szarkowski received two Guggenheim fellowships for his own photography. With the aid of the first he produced The Idea of Louis Sullivan (1956), published by the University of Minnesota Press; the second in 1961 allowed him to photograph the Quetico wilderness area of western Ontario, for a book as yet unpublished. He also wrote and photographed The Face of Minneosta (1958), which was financed by a grant from the University of Minnesota Press. Mr. Szarkowski formerly taught at the University of Buffalo and at the University of Minnesota. He also served as associate editor of the Walker Art Center's Quarterly.

John Szarkowski was born in Ashland, Wisconsin in 1925, graduated with a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. He is married to the former Jill Anson and has a daughter and a son.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501.
