

The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 116B

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: DIANE ARBUS

Diane Arbus was born in New York City on March 14, 1923. She was the middle child of three and her father, David Nemerov, owned Russek's, a large Fifth Avenue department store. She grew up on Central Park West and attended the Ethical Culture and Fieldston Schools. At the age of 18 she married Allan Arbus. They had two daughters, Amy and Doon Arbus. As fashion photographers, the Arbuses worked for most of the major fashion magazines in the United States for a number of years. In 1959 Diane Arbus studied photography with Lisette Model who, in a sense, gave her the license to seriously pursue her own work. She received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1963 and 1966. A year later some of the results of those projects were exhibited by John Szarkowski at The Museum of Modern Art in a show representing the works of three photographers and entitled "New Documents." Her photographs have since been included in the permanent collections of museums throughout the United States and Europe, including The Museum of Modern Art. In 1970, she made a portfolio of ten of her photographs which was to be the first of a series of limited editions of her work. Diane Arbus committed suicide on July 26, 1971. In July 1972 she was the first American photographer to be exhibited at the Venice Biennale.

Additional information and photographs 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, -7504.

11/1/72