

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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ADVANCE FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: ANSEL ADAMS AND THE WEST

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, September 8 - October 28, 1979

SPONSOR: This exhibition, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and Springs Mills, Inc., is the third in the Springs Mills Series on American Photography.

DIRECTOR: John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS: Perhaps the most sharply focused presentation to date of Adams' work, this exhibition features 153 of his landscapes of the American West.

Ansel Adams is perhaps the most acclaimed photographer of our time. As an artist, as a teacher, and as a master of photographic technique, his influence has been felt by succeeding generations of American photographers. He has published numerous outstanding books of his photographs. And few photographers have had their work exhibited as widely. Nevertheless, as John Szarkowski notes: "It seems to me that no exhibition has yet attempted to define the specific nature of Adams' original achievement, or describe his evolution."

The photographs in the exhibition will be drawn from The Museum's own holdings and from other important public and private collections, and have been selected to clarify Adams' most significant contribution to the photographic tradition. It will consist, as far as possible, of prints that were made at or near the time of the negative. The exhibition surveys Adams' career--spanning over half a century--and features much unfamiliar work. His changing perception and style is made evident from the lyrical, poetic landscapes of the 1920s and 30s to the later dramatic, sublimely epic pictures.

LECTURES: Two lectures on Tuesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. September 11: Ansel Adams will discuss his life and work. September 25: John Szarkowski will speak on Adams' work as it relates to that of Alfred Stieglitz and Timothy O'Sullivan.

BOOK: Yosemite and the Range of Light, with 116 photographs, Introduction by Paul Brooks, to be published by New York Graphic Society (\$75.00). A special paperbound Museum of Modern Art edition, including checklist of the exhibition, will be published (\$14.95).

PRESS PREVIEW: Tuesday, September 4, 1979, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

PUBLIC OPENING: Saturday, September 8, 1979

July 1979

For further information and photographs, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019.