

The Museum of Modern Art Bulletin

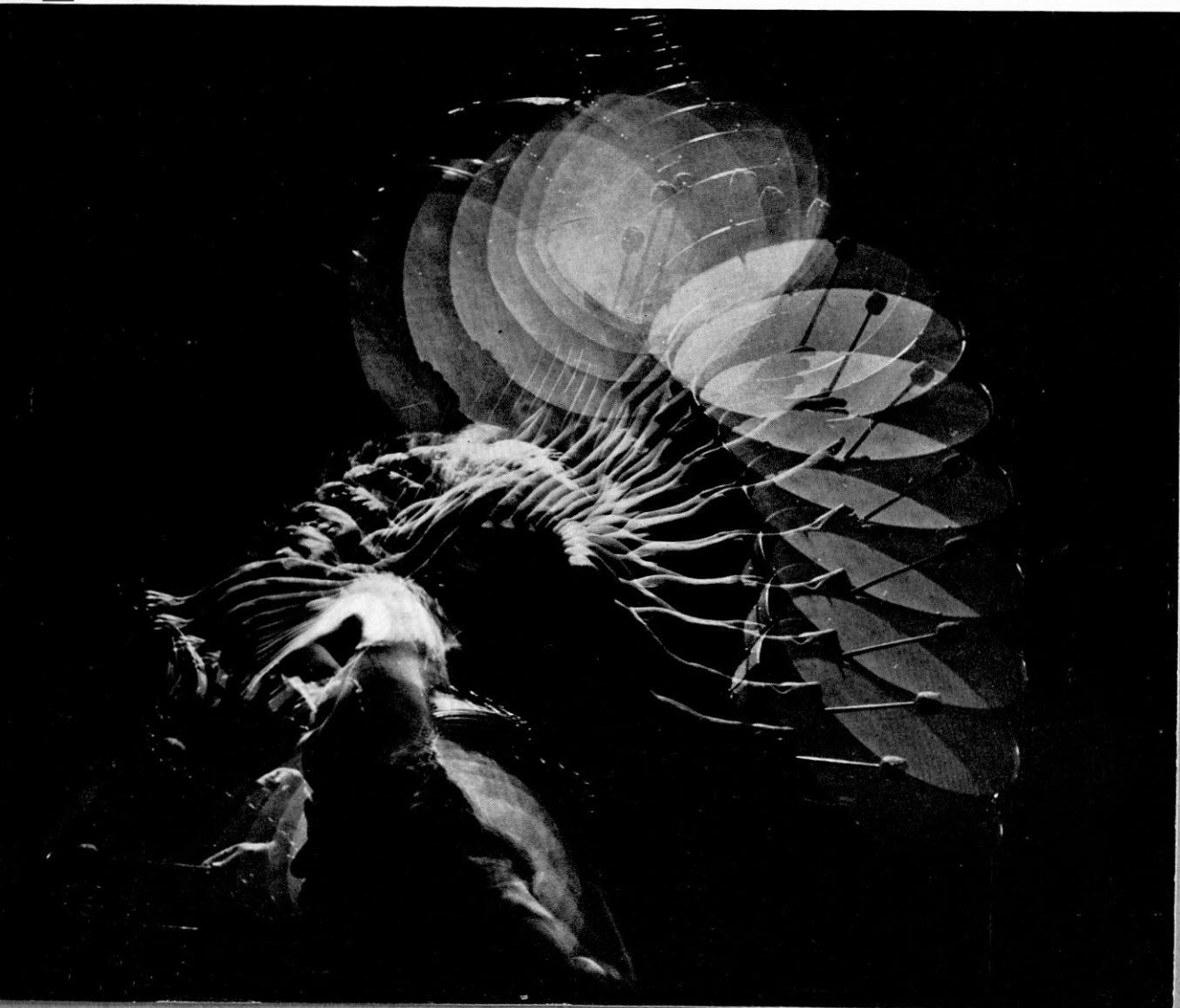
january 1948 vol. xv no. 2

Exh. 364

music & musicians

paintings by french children

furniture design competition



YOUSUF KARSH: Marian Anderson

MUSIC and MUSICIANS



47.1400 ✓

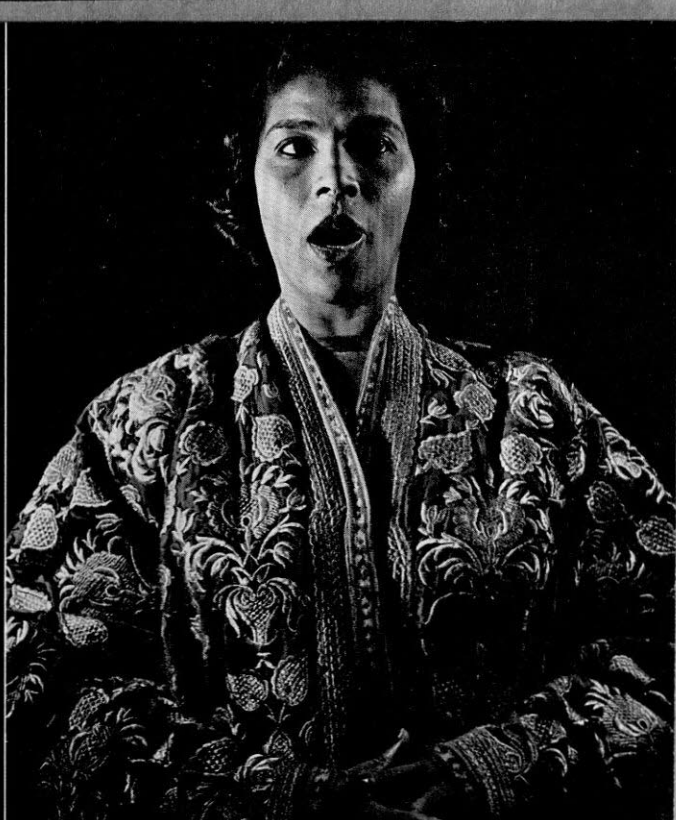
This, the second in a series of small group exhibitions exploring tendencies, techniques and directions in today's photography, has been organized by Edward Steichen. The first exhibition consisted of the work of three young photographers, each represented by a series of pictures on a different theme. "MUSIC AND MUSICIANS" presents six photographers, amateurs and professionals photographing one theme and similar subject matter but using different esthetic concepts, techniques and equipment.

Two amateur photographers in this group, Adrian Siegel, a cellist in a symphony orchestra, and Fred Plaut, a sound-recording engineer, have both photographed subject matter related to their professions—Siegel photographing conductors and musicians at work during rehearsals and recordings, and Plaut, conductors and musicians listening to the playback of their recordings. W. Eugene Smith's prints also represent musicians listening to music recordings. These various visualizations of "listening" are an indication of unexplored potentialities in photography. W. Eugene Smith's photographs and those by Plaut and

GJON MILI: *Jam Session—Mili Studio*

42.1428 ✓

Siegel are from 35mm negatives made without posing or arranging of the models and by the overhead lighting of the concert hall or the normal lighting of the recording studio. Yousuf Karsh is represented by classic studio portraits made with an 8 x 10 camera where the lighting and composition are the result of deliberate and carefully considered operations. Gjon Mili has used stroboscopic lighting from numerous synchronized flash units to make one exposure, also successive strobo flashes to produce a pattern of multiple images on one negative. Philippe Halsman's portraits in action were made by the lighting from several synchronized flashbulb units.



YOUSUF KARSH: Yehudi Menuhin

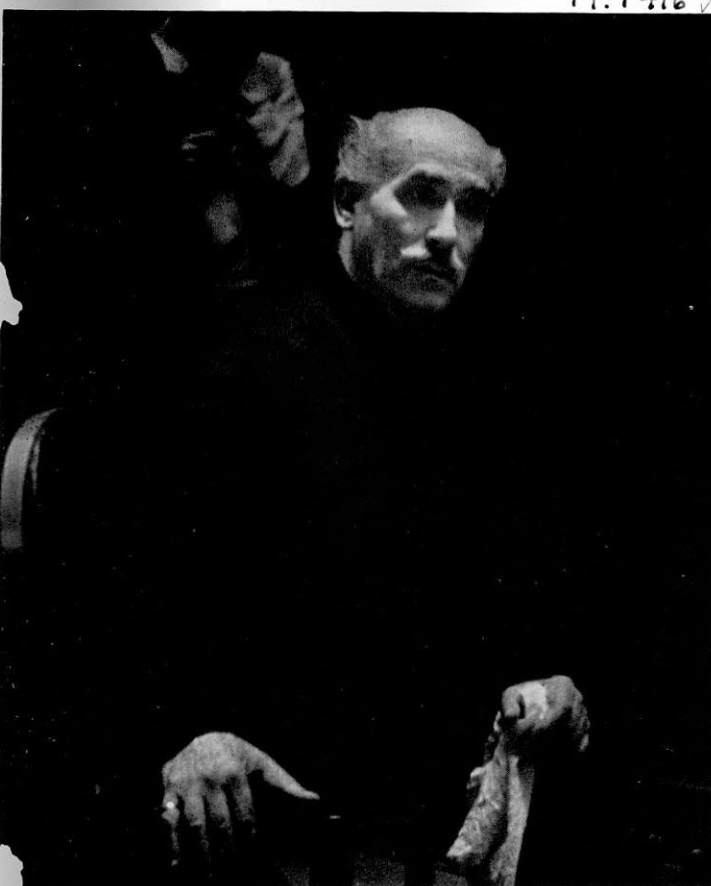
(below) ADRIAN SIEGEL: Arturo Toscanini

47.1401 ✓ 47.1420 ✓

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PHILIPPE HALSMAN: Marian Anderson

HALSMAN: Yehudi Menuhin





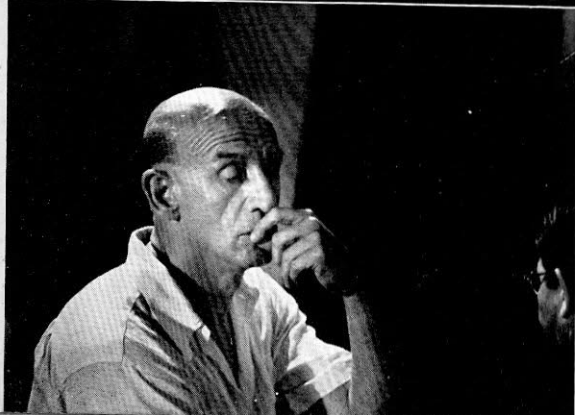
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Top to bottom—FRED PLAUT: Bruno Walter & Joseph Szigeti.
ADRIAN SIEGEL: Arturo Toscanini. Yehudi Menuhin. FRED PLAUT:
Dimitri Mitropoulos

BEAT ME, DADDY, F8 TO THE BAR!

by Barnett Bildersee, PM

"This is the story of a photograph which launched an exhibition. At least, it set off a chain reaction which ended up on the walls of the Museum of Modern Art as *Music and Musicians*.

"Fred Plaut, who is an amateur photographer and a professional recording engineer, took it of Igor Stravinsky, in shirt sleeves, conducting during the making of a record. It was just one of many pictures of musicians taken by Plaut with his pocket-sized 35mm camera in the ordinary overhead light of the recording studio.

"The picture, snapped at a moment when Stravinsky's arms and face seemed to hold all the drama of a great symphony, caught the eye of an advertising art director.

"It landed in the show window of a music shop where it caught the eye of Edward Steichen, director of the Museum's department of photography.

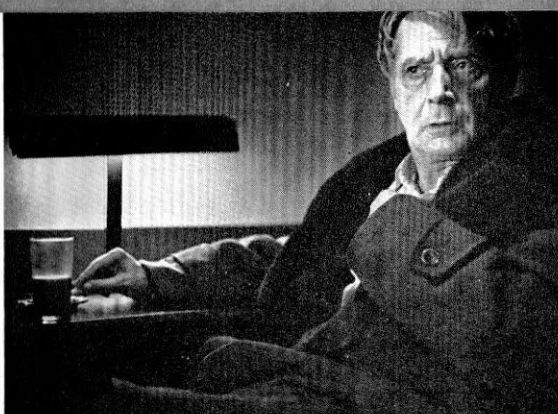
"Steichen sent for Plaut, who has an ear for music as well as an eye for photography. Plaut arrived with a portfolio of photographs showing good amateur handling of a camera. He had used it simply to record some of the people he knew in moods he understood.

"The wheels began to turn.

"What Plaut had done to capture the emotions of musicians, using only his little camera and light as he found it, reminded Steichen of portraits of musicians by Yousuf Karsh, famed photographer of Churchill and Roosevelt. Each of Karsh's pictures is the result of painstaking planning and the precise use of studio lights and camera.

"Before the selection of photographers of musicians was complete it told a photographic story of music from Bach to boogie-woogie."

Top to bottom—W. EUGENE SMITH: Charles Munch. Artur Rodzinski. FRED PLAUT: Adolf Busch. Darius Milhaud—Father & Son



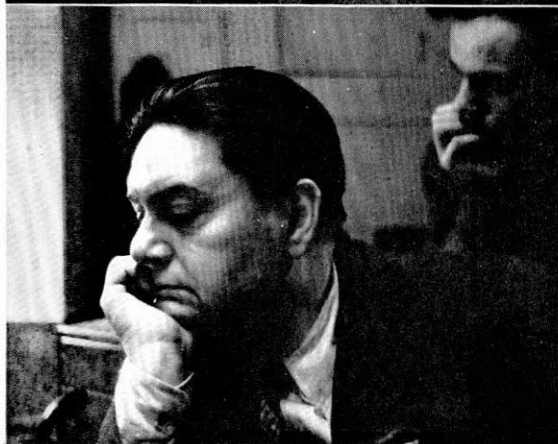
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GJON MILI: *Stroboscopic sequence—Pas de Ballet*

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