

The Museum of Modern Art

252

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

No. 154

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, December 14, 1966

PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, December 13, 1966

Trustees' Room (6th floor)

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

More than fifty photographs from the outstanding private collection of Mr. and Mrs. David H. McAlpin will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art from December 14 through February 12; it is the first private collection of photographs to be shown at the Museum.

The exhibition, part of the continuing series of smaller shows devoted to a particular artist or theme shown in the third floor galleries of the Edward Steichen Photography Center, includes works by Ansel Adams, Paul Outerbridge, Eliot Porter, Charles Sheeler, Brett Weston and Edward Weston, selected by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography.

Mr. Szarkowski points out, "Several museums have significant collections of photography, and in recent years a number of universities have become concerned with the formation and exhibition of permanent photography collections, yet significant private collections are very rare -- even today. An exception is the McAlpin collection which was begun in the early thirties. Not only do the individual works in the collection reflect high critical standards, but the collection as a whole expresses a vigorous, personal perspective."

Of the works, Mr. McAlpin has written in his introduction to the show, "Our collection makes no effort to be comprehensive or representative, as a museum collection should be. Rather, it reflects our personal tastes and our identification with the concerns and aspirations of the artists whose work it represents. First among these shared concerns has been an interest in the unspoiled natural scene of this country's unique wilderness areas -- which photography has done so much to record and interpret, and hopefully, preserve.

Mr. McAlpin has always been interested in the graphic arts and photography. In 1933, he met the painter, Georgia O'Keeffe, and her husband, Alfred Stieglitz, who had then largely retired from active photography to devote his time and energy to
(more)

"An American Place" his gallery at 509 Madison Avenue.

In October of 1936, Stieglitz presented a one-man show of the work of Ansel Adams; four prints from that exhibition formed the beginning of the McAlpin collection. Fifteen of the prints by Adams now owned by the McAlpins will be included in the present exhibition. Similarly, in 1938, when Stieglitz exhibited Eliot Porter's photographs, the McAlpins purchased five prints from the show.

Mr. McAlpin's association with The Museum of Modern Art dates back to the same period when he met Beaumont Newhall, then the librarian on the Museum's staff, whose greatest interest was in photography. In 1937, Newhall assembled a large, historical exhibition commemorating Daguerre's first successful experiments a century earlier. Three years later, the Museum's Department of Photography was established with Beaumont Newhall as Curator and with David H. McAlpin as Trustee Chairman. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees until 1948, and has since been a member of the Museum Corporation.

Mr. McAlpin, a special partner in the brokerage firm of Clark, Dodge and Co., Inc. in Manhattan, was born in New York in 1897. He is a graduate of Princeton University, class of 1920; he received a law degree from Harvard University in 1924. The McAlpins live in Princeton, New Jersey.

Concurrently on view on the sixth floor, is a selection of photographs from the Museum's Art Lending Service, including a number of prints of works in the McAlpin collection. The Art Lending Service has included photographs in its collection since 1960, which may be purchased by Museum members.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.