

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN SHORE

"Photographs by Stephen Shore," an exhibition of works by a member of the new generation of color photographers, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 8, 1976 through January 2, 1977. The photographs, taken with a large stand camera and using 8x10 color negative film, record the people and places that Shore has encountered on his extensive travels throughout the country. The exhibition has been selected and installed by Maria Morris, Intern in the Department of Photography.

Shore's photographs have little to do with traditional photo reportage and are not concerned with the details of "local color." Rather he focuses on seemingly insignificant details--usually passed over in a glance--and fashions from them elegant images of our contemporary American culture. His subject matter includes such deceptively mundane items as pampas grass on a Fort Worth esplanade, yellow traffic stripes sloping down to the Seattle harbor, a dusty alley in Presidio, Texas, and the back wall of a parking lot in Charleston, South Carolina. By concentrating on such scenes, by dwelling on the spaces between the things generally noticed, Shore's work reveals the character of the subject quietly, without rhetoric.

The deliberate care with which Shore makes his photographs and the stringent order he imposes on his subjects result in pictures that "maintain an air of harmonious repose more common to ancient idylls than modern urban life." Shore's careful handling of his pictorial elements in no way reduces or subjugates the beauty of his subject; rather it permits its assertion. "The quietude (of the photographs) is analogous to Shore's attitude toward his subject, which is one of pleasurable reflection rather than judgment," writes Maria Morris. "Alert,

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he finds moments of exquisite delectation while becalmed amidst ordinarily negligible surroundings."

Stephen Shore was born in 1947 and began photographing at the age of nine. Except for courses in secondary school, he is self-taught. He has had several one-man shows and was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1974 and a Guggenheim fellowship in 1975. He lives in New York City.

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Photographs, color transparencies and additional information available from Michael Boodro, Assistant and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504; 7501.

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