

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE INDIVIDUAL:

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHAUNCEY HARE

An exhibition of forty-eight photographs by Chauncey Hare will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from July 18 through October 23. PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHAUNCEY HARE is directed by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography.

These photographs of both private and public interiors, many of them with their inhabitants, were made during two periods: between 1968 and 1970 in California where Hare, a petroleum engineer by profession, has worked for the past twenty years; and in 1971 and 1972 in the upper Ohio Valley where Hare's father's family has lived for seven generations. These photos are part of a larger project documenting the effects of technology on individual lives.

Hare says of the series of photographs taken in California: "In 1968, March, I began eight months of furious spare time effort - about twenty-five pictures....I applied for and received a Guggenheim Fellowship based on that eight months of nighttime and weekend effort...I was convinced that I was going to put everything into it and come up with something superior (presumptuousness). The Guggenheim in California for me was the end of thirty-five years of the unconscious death: I had one year of life. Christ, how we thrash ourselves was my discovery of that year."

Yet, Hare further notes, "The Ohio Valley was in my mind's eye all the time I photographed in California." He observes of this later series of photographs: "Over-all, my approach to the pictures was not assertive - it was one of discovery....A frequent phrase in my thinking is 'don't turn it off, be aware of a possibility - it's here just see it.'....I worked in a stubborn, ironical, rebellious, yet empathetic frame of mind. I could not proceed

(more)

without the stubborn intention of entering and photographing homes....Things began to happen in an uncanny way...people expecting me when I had not met them before." And he concludes: "To me each picture is another piece in the puzzle that I'm having a terrific time assembling."

Chauncey Hare was born in Niagara Falls, New York, in 1934. He took his B.A. and B.S. degrees at Columbia University, majoring in chemical engineering. Until May of this year he has worked for twenty-one years as a research engineer for Standard Oil of California. He is now completing a study of Standard Oil employees in their working and living environment.

All of the photographs in the exhibition are lent by Mr. Hare.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency.

Photographs and additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, or Linda Gordon, Associate Director, Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7295; 2648.
