

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.

