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SPRINGS INDUSTRIES GRANT PRESERVES FINAL WORK OF GARRY WINOGRAND

When the photographer Garry Winogrand died at the age of fifty-six in 1984, he left more than 2,500 rolls of film—much of his last three years of shooting—that had been exposed but not processed. Through an emergency grant of $14,000 from Springs Industries to The Museum of Modern Art, the film was saved from deterioration and processed. Twenty-five prints along with forty slides from this period can be seen in the final section of GARRY WINOGRAND, a retrospective currently on view at The Museum of Modern Art.

Walter Elisha, chairman and chief executive officer of Springs Industries, said: "Springs's previous commitments to photography have supported existing work of known quality. In this case we felt it was important, in light of Winogrand's prior record, to rescue this last of his work for study and evaluation. We felt the photography community would not want to risk losing what Garry Winogrand's last work might say to all of us."

John Szarkowski, director of the Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art, stated: "Some of the film that Winogrand left undeveloped was presumably close to the point of deterioration. If those pictures were to be preserved, it was essential to develop the film without much further delay. Winogrand was, in his first years as a photographer, an exceptionally prolific worker. In his last years his
shooting became voracious—perhaps five rolls a day, seven days a week."

Eileen Hale, the photographer’s widow, prepared his massive output for preliminary cataloging and proofing. In addition to the film developed posthumously, approximately 7,000 additional rolls were developed by Winogrand late in his life, but not proofed. Winogrand’s associate, Tom Consilvio, who during the past decade produced most of Winogrand’s finished prints, was entrusted by Miss Hale with the job of developing (by inspection) the film that the photographer left unprocessed. The resulting proof sheets—more than a third of a million exposures—were edited for the exhibition by John Szarkowski and the photographers Tod Papageorge and Thomas Roma.

On view through August 16, 1988, GARRY WINOGRAND and its accompanying publication are part of the Springs Industries Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art and are generously supported by a grant from Springs Industries, Inc. Additional support for the exhibition has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.