

The Museum of Modern Art

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NEW DOCUMENTS, an exhibition of 90 photographs by three leading representatives of a new generation of documentary photographers -- Diane Arbus, Lee Friedlander and Garry Winogrand -- will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from February 28 through May 7.

John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, writes in his introduction to the exhibition, "In the past decade/^{this} new generation of photographers has redirected the technique and aesthetic of documentary photography to more personal ends. Their aim has been not to reform life but to know it, not to persuade but to understand. The world, in spite of its terrors, is approached as the ultimate source of wonder and fascination, no less precious for being irrational and incoherent."

Their approach differs radically from the documentary photographers of the thirties and forties, when the term was relatively new. Then, photographers used their art as a tool of social reform; "it was their hope that their pictures would make clear what was wrong with the world, and persuade their fellows to take action and change it," according to Szarkowski.

"What unites these three photographers," he says, "is not style or sensibility; each has a distinct and personal sense of the use of photography and the meanings of the world. What is held in common is the belief that the world is worth looking at, and the courage to look at it without theorizing."

Garry Winogrand's subjects range from a group of bathers at Easthampton Beach on Long Island to a group of tourists at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles and refer to much of contemporary America, from the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California to peace marchers in Cape Cod.

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Winogrand was born in New York City in 1928 and began photographing while in the Air Force during the second World War. He studied painting at the City College of New York and at Columbia University, and photography with Alexey Brodovitch at the New School for Social Research in New York. His works were included in the Museum's FAMILY OF MAN exhibition in 1955, in FIVE UNRELATED PHOTOGRAPHERS in 1963 and RECENT ACQUISITIONS: PHOTOGRAPHY in 1965.

Lee Friedlander was born in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1934 and began taking photographs in 1948. He studied photography at the Art Center School in Los Angeles and with Edward Kaminski. In 1960 and again in 1962, Friedlander received Guggenheim Fellowships for photographic studies of the changing American scene.

The subjects are frequently reflections in the plate glass windows -- store fronts, offices, display windows -- which dominate the American scene; and within those reflections are others: a photograph of a movie star or a political figure behind the window and the viewer reflected on the glass. Friedlander's photographs were first shown at The Museum of Modern Art in PHOTOGRAPHS FOR COLLECTORS in 1963 and were included in THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE the following year.

Thirty-two portraits by Diane Arbus are included. Diane Arbus was born in New York City in 1923 and studied photography under Lisette Model in New York. Her work has been published frequently in such magazines as Harper's Bazaar, Esquire and Show and were included in the 1965 RECENT ACQUISITIONS exhibition at the Museum.

The current exhibition is scheduled to circulate throughout the United States and Canada after its New York showing.

Photographs and additional material 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.