

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS TO BE SOLD AT MUSEUM FOR CHRISTMAS

The Museum's Photography Department will open an exhibition of photographic prints for sale on Friday, November 30 with the suggestion that they may be used as Christmas gifts. The exhibition will be on view in a first floor gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, through January 6. Duplicate prints of the photographs in the exhibition will be on sale for immediate delivery during that period at the desk in the lobby of the Museum.

The work of 39 photographers has been selected by Edward Steichen, Director of the Department of Photography. Mounted prints of these photographs will range in price from \$10 to \$25, proceeds to go to the photographers. This exhibition and sale is being held as an experiment to stimulate an interest in the collecting of original photographic prints. If the demand warrants, this may become an annual event.

The selection of prints is notable for its wide range - to appeal to many tastes - in variety of techniques both in black and white and in color, in differing aims of photographers, in moods, in a time span of more than 20 years including such well-known names as Edward Weston, Berenice Abbott and Lisette Model, as well as young and promising newcomers like Robert Frank, Louis Faurer and Edward Wallowitch.

There is Weston's famous, intensely realistic Nude on the Sand (1936), and the young Tosh Matsumoto's Butterfly on the Sand with its charming whimsicality. There are also sand dunes by Brett Weston, son of the famous photographer. Abstraction is here in Frederick Sommer's work based on natural forms and also in the delicate, sensitive tracteries with no recognizable basis by Lotte Jacobi. There is a strong sense of structure throughout these imaginative abstractions as well as in those of Aaron Siskind. There is the studied, almost Oriental delicacy of Arnold Newman's tree against a wall, virtually an abstract pattern, and also his dramatic composition of Stravinsky.

The famous picture of New York buildings at night by Berenice Abbott is here as is her Exchange Place, New York, tall and slim like the skyscraper cavern it depicts, taken with her clear sharp eye. Berenice Abbott has also made available a set of prints from her original Atget negatives for this exhibition and sale. One New York night scene is pure mood in moonlight by Homer Page.

Among the color print works are some of the latest in modern experimental manipulations by Jeannette Klute, charming studies of fruits and flowers. Eliot Porter has contributed handsome color prints, one of white aspens, a delicate harmony of silver and gold.

A grim comment on our times is found in Homer Page's photograph of a wounded G.I. from Korea which may not seem at first glance to be a Christmas-gift subject, but Mr. Steichen has included it for those who feel that Christmas this year is not all jingle bells. Documentary photographs by Helen Levitt are also here, as well as a circus picture by Lisette Model.

The spontaneous charm of children is well depicted in the delightful child portraits by Tana Hoban. Photographs from the famous Chartres series by Charles Sheeler are included with one of Louis Faurer's sensitive semi-abstract photographs, landscapes by Ansel Adams, Robert Frank's famous picture of a young man with a tulip, as well as a photograph by Arthur Leipzig of the lovely grace of a sleeping child.