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TV. 11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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FOR RELEASE

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No. 134

## EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK CITY ON VIEW AT MUSEUM

300 pictures taken in the past 104 years of one of the most photographed, restless and many-sided models in the world--New York City--will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from November 27 through February 2 in an exhibition organized by Edward Steichen, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography. Grace Mayer, Curator of Prints at the Museum of the City of New York, assisted Mr. Steichen in assembling the show which is called 70 PHOTOGRAPHERS LOOK AT NEW YORK CITY: from 1853 - 1957. The installation was designed by Ivan Chermayeff.

From three inch carte de visite photographs by Mathew Brady of 19th Century New Yorkers to a nine-foot mural of New Yorkers at Coney Island, from a view of the city looking north from Battery Place, printed by Victor Prevost on a paper negative in 1853, showing Trinity Church steeple dominating the skyline, to a 20th Century photograph in which the famous landmark is overshadowed by the skyscrapers of the busiest financial section of the world, the exhibition "constitutes a melting pot reflecting the human melting pot of this unique and fabulous city," Mr. Steichen says.

Photographs that have caught the essence of memorable moments--the city's tumultuous welcome to its heroes Admiral Dewey and Lindberg and its final tribute to General Grant are included, as well as photographs of events made memorable because they were captured on film--a city street from one window, a passing face in Harlem, an unexpected glimpse of trees, zanies flying through the air before plunging into the water, a withered flower in a glass on a window sill.

Although most of the photographs in the exhibition are contemporary, occasional flashbacks, including some famous Stieglitz pictures, give the image of the city as it was, as its people dressed and worked and played. Many photographs show changes taking place, as New York periodically tears down, digs down and builds up. Telescopic views show the enormous size of the city, while color prints, enlarged by Technicolor, reveal some of the magic and beauty not always planned by the architects and builders but found by the discerning eye.

Dogs and women at the Madison Square Garden dog show and an old man with his cat, nightclub performers, a tired young couple on a subway train, teenagers in trouble, smartly hatted, veiled women, a girl and two boys by a Park lake are among the hundreds of New Yorkers whose mood, attitude, feeling is revealed in these photographs. The less-seen city, the city at night, deserted, emptied and quiet, is shown in mysterious, sometimes brooding photographs.

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quotations from poets, novelists and architects, severely criticising or praising New York, are used as captions for groups of photographs in the exhibition. Included is Walt Whitman's cry: "O superb! O Manhattan, my own, my peerless," and Wolfe's "...the proud masted city of the soaring towers!" Frank Lloyd Wright said it is a "relentless commercial engine...cruelly high." F. Scott Fitzgerald thought "New York had all the iridescence of the beginning of the world," while Le Corbusier said "A hundred times I have thought: New York is a catastrophe and fifty times: it is a beautiful catastrophe."

In addition to giving these various views of the city and its past, the exhibition illustrates changing concepts in photographic techniques, Mr. Steichen points out, from the literal view to the imaginative and abstract photographs of the city and its people.

Commenting on the exhibition, Mr. Steichen says:

Here we have a rounded sampling of the images some seventy photographers have made of, at, and to the city of New York. These prints are mainly the work of contemporary photographers, with flashbacks provided by earlier photographers telling what the fabulous city was like in times when men wore "stove pipe" hats any place, any time. We have the remarkably fine early stereographs; the literal and the fancied-up post-cards ushering in the "wish you were here" era; we have the early factual news report; and we have both early and recent examples of the literal camera image subordinated to and used as a tool to represent, reflect, or convey the personal comment, reaction, or emotion of the photographer.

Here is featured the early documentary work of citizen Jacob Riis, an ardent crusader on behalf of the outcast and the under-privileged New Yorker. This dedicated news reporter, though an inexperienced amateur with the camera, succeeded in making photographs that marked the beginning of a new, more humane and human page in the history of New York, as well as a new and unique contribution to the art of photography.

Here are recent color photographs by Ernest Haas whose exploration, with the poetic imagination of an artist's feeling, concept, and vision, leads into the highways and byways of the city, disclosing new beauties and meanings in details and fragments ordinarily invisible to the hurried, hurried or heedless citizen.

Between these aspects of New York are images of love, admiration, wit, characterization, and satire, from faces close up to the splendor of the far-off view of the city brought near as by the telescope. Here is the brooding mood of the silent, Sunday City; the utter loneliness of the anonymous individual amid the city's millions; the tumult of celebration; the cheers and ticker tape the crowd pours over the moment's idol. Here are tolerance and intolerance, luxury and misery, gaiety and sorrow, the cockeyed and the purposeful, photographs that in themselves constitute a melting pot reflecting the human melting pot of this unique fabulous city.

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CHECK-LIST

70 PHOTOGRAPHERS LOOK AT NEW YORK  
26 November 1957-March '58

Key: MOMA -- Museum of Modern Art                      PC -- Permanent Collection of Museum  
SC -- Study Collection of the Museum                      MCNY - Museum of the City of New York

<u>Name of Photographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
ABBOTT, Berenice	1. Midtown, 1932 (building, lights, night)	Abbott
" "	2. Rockefeller Center, 1932	"
" "	3. Canyon -- Exchange Place from Broadway, early 1930's	MOMA
" "	4. (white deer in shop window)	Abbott
AUSTEN, Alice	5. Immigrants, Battery Park 1896	MOMA
" "	Courtesy of Staten Island Historical Society	
" "	6. Self-Portrait, 1888	MOMA
BELLANCA, Joseph	7. (3 pigeons in empty street)	Bellanca
BERG, Paul	8. Lever House	Berg
	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	
BRADY, Mathew B.	9-16 Cartes de visite (8) of 1860's-70's	MCNY
" "	17. 1 Carte de visite " " "	Chicago Historical Society
" "	18. Broadway, 1867	MCNY
BURDEN, Shirley C.	19. Ellis Island Today	Burden
BUTLER (no 1st name)	20. The Dewey Celebration, seen from Brooklyn Heights 1899	MCNY
BYRON COMPANY, The	21. The Steerage, 1893	MCNY
" "	22. Maillard's, 1902	"
" "	23. D.A.R., 1898	"
" "	24. Alice Duer Miller, her mother & sister 1906	"
" "	25. The Horseback Dinner given by C.K.G. Billings at Sherr's, 1903	"
" "	26. Madison Square, 1901	"
" "	27. Herald Square, about 1901	"
" "	28. Sixth Ave. & 23rd Street, 1904	"
" "	29. Elsie de Wolfe, 1896	"
CARSWELL, Edwin <u>Vogue</u>	30. Dinner given by Mrs. Vanderbilt, 1941	MOMA
CHERMAYEFF, Ivan	31. Catherine (close-up of baby's face)	Chermayeff
Daily Mirror	32. Mayor LaGuardia "Bill of Rights Day" 1941	I.N.P.
	International News Photos	
DECARAVA, Roy	33. Harlem (Negro girl in white dress)	DeCarava
" "	34. Harlem (2 boys in empty lot)	"
" "	35. Harlem (Negro boy in patterned shirt)	"
" "	36. Harlem (boy beside sign "Half Moon")	"
" "	37. Harlem (distressed woman)	"
" "	38. Harlem (Negro boy, woman's arm on him)	"
" "	39. Harlem (dark narrow corridor)	"
" "	40. Harlem (man's reflection in window)	"
DETROIT PHOTOGRAPHIC CO. (and others)	41-63. 23 postcards from late 1890's to 1915	MCNY
FALK, Sam - <u>N.Y. Times</u>	64. (Third Avenue El before demolition)	Falk
" " "	65. (boys being frisked under street lamp)	"
" " "	66. "Zanies" diving at the Aquashow	"
" " "	67. Sunday in Central Park (3 girls playing)	"
FEININGER, Andreas <u>Life</u>	68. Housing development	MOMA
" "	69. Downtown Manhattan from New Jersey	"

(Check-list - 70 Photographers look at NY)

<u>Name of photographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
FEININGER, Andreas	70. Brooklyn Bridge	MOMA
" "	71. Empire State Building from New Jersey	"
" "	72. Fifth Ave. south from 47th St. (crowd)	"
" "	73. Brooklyn Cemetery	"
FEINSTEIN, Harold	74. (man holding beer can, beer bottle in foreground)	Feinstein
" "	75. (3 boys seen through doorway in wall)	"
" "	76. (bowl of apples between lace curtains)	"
FRANK, Robert	77. (group of women in evening dress, Waldorf)	Frank
" "	78. (rear of Rolls Royce, license 5Y4)	MOMA
" "	79. (woman releasing kite, child watching)	Frank
" "	80. (old woman, face hidden by newspaper)	"
" "	81. (people seated on bench, Rockefeller C'ntr)	"
" "	82. (driver and girl at window talking)	"
" "	83. Macy Parade	"
FREDERICKS, Charles	84. Carte de visite 1860-70	MCNY
GROSSMAN, Mildred	85. Labor meeting (Negro woman speaking)	Grossmann
GURNEY, & Son, J.	86. Carte de visite 1860-70	MCNY
HAAS, Ernst <u>Magnum</u>	87. (small statue in front of steeple) (color)	MOMA
" " "	88. (reflections in water on street)	" "
" " "	89. (blurred faces of pedestrians)	" "
" " "	90. (3rd Ave. at 38th St. - sign)	" "
" " "	91. (facade of UN with reflection)	" "
" " "	92. (sunset silhouette)	" "
" " "	93. (soapy window)	" "
" " "	94. (2 men on sidewalk from above)	" "
" " "	95. (skyscrapers & window reflection)	" "
" " "	96. (UN building from side)	" "
" " "	97. (blurred skyscrapers)	" "
" " "	98. (children in swings)	" "
" " "	99. (reflection in river)	" "
" " "	100. (rippled reflection of building)	" "
HALL & SON, Geo. P.	101. Homeward Bound, Park Row 1909	MCNY
HEYMAN, Ken	102. Coney Island 1957 (fight at beach)	Heyman
" "	103. (policeman and boys in lot)	"
HINE, Lewis B.	104. Italian family, Ellis Island 1905	MOMA
" "	105. Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	105. Slavic group, Ellis Island 1905	"
" "	106. Albanian woman, Ellis Island 1905	"
" "	106. Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	107. Italian mother and child, Ellis Island 1905	"
" "	107. Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	108. Jewish grandmother, Ellis Island 1905	"
" "	108. Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	109. Czechoslovak grandmother, Ellis Island 1905	"
" "	109. Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	110. "Cowboys of the Sky" Empire State Building (man in air on cable) Courtesy G.E.H.	"
" "	111. (man on top of building pointing downward) Courtesy of George Eastman House	"
" "	112. (men resting in framework of building) Courtesy of George Eastman House	"

(Check-list -- 70 Photographers look at NY)

<u>Name of photographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
JACKSON, William H.	113. The Harlem River, 1890	MCNY
JACOBS, Raymond	114. (Brooklyn Bridge with demolition in foreground)	Jacobs
" "	115. (face of frowning girl)	"
JOEL, Yale - <u>Life</u>	116. Night club - the Latin Quarter (girl doing boomp-a-daisy)	<u>Life</u>
" " "	117. Night club - the Latin Quarter (girl doing mambo)	"
" " "	118. Night club - the Latin Quarter (girls viewed from below stage)	"
KANE, Art	119. (girl's face behind spangled veil)	MOMA
KORNGOLD, Ben	120. (seated couple in subway)	Korngold
" "	121. (Negro mother and 3 girls in subway)	"
LARSEN, Lisa - <u>Life</u>	122. Reginald Marsh on the Bowery	<u>Life</u>
LEVINSTEIN, Leon	123. (old woman, close-up seen from left)	Levinstein
" "	124. (3 women in hats)	"
" "	125. (old man with white beard)	"
" "	126. (man in window with cat)	"
" "	127. (head of Negro in cap)	"
" "	128. (white-haired woman, close-up from right)	"
" "	129. (old woman, elbow resting on window-sill)	"
" "	130. (disturbed woman with baby)	"
" "	131. (tree in front of tenement)	"
LEVITT, Helen	132. (5 Negro boys playing in slum)	MOMA - SC
" "	133. (boys hiding under box)	" "
" "	134. (boys playing over doorway)	" PC #48.42
" "	135. (boys playing Foreign Legion)	" SC
" "	136. (boy bent over double)	" "
" "	137. (Negro child walking toward mother)	" "
" "	138. (pregnant woman with milk bottles)	" "
McKENNA, Rollie	139. Children's art class, MOMA	McKenna
MAIRA, Joseph - Port of New York Authority	140. Erie Railroad Yards	MOMA
MAISEL, Jay	141. (3rd Avenue El during demolition)	MOMA
" "	142. (empty street with stanchions)	Maisel
" "	143. (car lights on avenue)	<del>190/44</del>
MARSH, Reginald	144. Bonwit Teller, 1940 (passers-by and nun standing)	Marsh (Mrs. R.)
" "	145. The Bowery, 1938	" "
" "	146. Central Park, 1941 (sailors at boating lake)	" "
MILLI, Gjon - <u>Life</u>	147. (girl singing in night club)	MOMA
MILLER, Wayne <u>Magnum</u>	148. The Dog Show, Madison Square Garden (woman kissing dog)	Miller
" " "	149. Same-(woman with dog around neck)	"
" " "	150. Same-(man with dog)	"
" " "	151. Same-(woman brushing dog)	"
" " "	152. Same-(2 women talking behind dog's tail)	"
MODEL, Lisette	153. (woman singing at microphone)	Model
" "	154. (old woman, head behind arm)	MOMA - SC
" "	155. (old woman in profile)	MOMA
" "	156. (East Side block party - 2 women)	MOMA - PC #34.43
" "	157. (fat woman bather)	MOMA

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<u>Name of phbtographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
MOTTAR, Robert	158. Times Square (man eyeing girl)	Mottar
New York Times	159. Triborough Bridge, early 1930's	MOMA - (in PC)
ORMSBEE, Marcus	160. Hudson Street, 1865	N.Y. Historical Society
PACH, G. W.	161. Brooklyn Bridge, 1878	MCNY
PAGE, Homer	162. (balling)	MOMA
" "	163. (foreman seen thru hole in wall)	Page
" "	164. (man in foreground, balling in rear)	MOMA
" "	165. (men knocking down wall)	MOMA
" "	166. (sidewalk superintendent)	Page
" "	167. (couple in front of shop window)	Page
" "	168. (girl in white blouse)	MOMA
" "	169. (woman walking on street in furs)	Page
" "	170. (dejected man)	MOMA
PETERSEN, Rolf	171. RCA building, 1957	MOMA
PRESS, Morton	172. (man with acetylene torch)	Press
" "	173. Third Tube of Lincoln Tunnel	"
PREVOST, Victor	174. Battery Place, looking north, 1853 (property of MOMA) Print made by and courtesy of N.Y. Historical Society	
RIIS, Jacob A.	175. Italian mother and child, about 1889	MOMA
" "	176. About 1889 (children saying prayers)	"
" "	177. Police station lodgers, Elizabeth St., about 1890	"
" "	178. Bandits Roost, Mulberry St., about 1889	"
" "	179. The Short Tail Gang, about 1889	"
" "	180. Police station lodger - a plank for a bed - about 1890	"
" "	181. Blind man, 1888	"
" "	182. Press reporters' office, 1888	"
" "	183. The Mulberry Bend, about 1889	"
" "	184. The street their only playground, early 1890's	"
" "	185. Roof of Mott Street Barracks, about 1889	"
" "	186. A Whirlwind Scene, Gotham Court about 1889	"
" "	187. Shoemaker, Broome St. tenement, early 1890's	"
" "	188. Bohemian Cigarmakers, about 1889	"
" "	189. A "Poverty Gap" family, about 1889	"
" "	190. Basement dive, about 1895	"
" "	191. "Black and Tan" dive, Broome Street about 1889	"
" "	192. Police Station Lodgers, Elizabeth St., about 1890	"
" "	193. Police Station Lodgers, Oak St., c.1890	"
" "	194. " " " W.47th St., c.1890	"
" "	195. Lodgers - "Five Cents a Spot"- about 1889	"
" "	196. One of 4 peddlers who slept in a Ludlow Street cellar	"
" "	197. Essex Market School, early 1890's	"
" "	198. Industrial School, Mott St., about 1889	"
" "	199. Industrial School, W.52nd St., c. 1889	"
" "	200. Talmud School, Hester St., early 1890's	"
" "	201. Preparing for the Sabbath Eve - coal cellar - early 1890's	"

ALL RIIS PHOTOGRAPHS ARE BY COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

(Check-list -- 70 Photographers look at NY)

<u>Name of photographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
RINTOUL & ROCKWOOD	202-204 Cartes de Visite, 1860's-'70's	MCNY
ROTHSTEIN, Arthur- <u>Look</u>	205. (pigeons on Park Avenue)	<u>Look</u>
SARONY, Napoleon	206. Carte de Visite, 1860's-'70's	MCNY
SCHULTHESS, Emil - <u>Du</u>	207. View from office of Secretary-General, United Nations building - Courtesy of <u>Du</u>	MOMA
SHERMAN, Timothy - Port of N.Y. Authority	208. Escalator, bus terminal	MOMA
SHERMAN, A.F.	209. Immigrants, Ellis Island, about 1900 Courtesy of Marshall B. Davidson	MOMA
SIEGEL, Hal	210. (view under bridge)	Siegel
" "	211. (view from pier)	"
SILVER, Walt	212. (pigeons in snow)	Silver
" "	213. (demolition, with doors)	"
SMITH, W. Eugene-Magnum	214. (man standing in street, white line)	Smith
" " "	215. ( " " " " " " )	"
" " "	216. ( " " " " , no white line)	"
" " "	217. (little girl coming out of florist shop)	"
" " "	218. (couple walking in snow, from above)	"
" " "	219. (Mother's Day, in front of florist's)	"
STEICHEN, Edward	220. The Flatiron, 1905	Metropolitan Museum of Art
" "	221. Trinity Church, 1904	Steichen
" "	222. The Empire State Building, 1933	MOMA
" "	223. Radio City, 1933	Steichen
" "	224. A Sunday Night, 1924	"
" "	225. Backyard, 1922	"
" "	226. The Sunday Paper, 1922	"
" "	227. Laughing Boxes, 1922	"
STERN, Leonard - Port of N.Y. Authority	228. (skyline at night with UN building)	MOMA
STIEGLITZ, Alfred	229. The Steerage, 1907 (gravure)	MOMA - PC
" "	230. The City of Ambition, 1910	" "
" "	231. The Mauretania, 1910	" "
" "	232. The Hand of Man, 1902	" "
" "	233. The Terminal, 1892	" "
" "	234. Winter - Fifth Avenue, 1893	" "
" "	235. Old and New New York	" "
" "	236. The Street - Design for a Poster " about 1898	" "
" "	237. View from "An American Place," 1930's(print)"	" "
" "	238. " " " " " " " " " "	" "
" "	239. Spring - Kitty Stieglitz, Central Park 1901 (gravure)	" "
" "	240. Spring Showers, New York 1900	" "
TREER, Ann	241. (smear of rain on window)	Treer
UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD	242. The Lindbergh Welcome, 1927	MOMA
UNITED PRESS-ACME	243. Baseball Scoreboard, World Bldg., 1926	MOMA
U.S.COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY	244. (lens photograph used on wall & poster)	MOMA
VACHON, John - <u>Look</u>	245. (women applying cosmetics in class)	<u>Look</u>
" " "	246. (3 men looking like gangsters)	"
VESTAL, David	247. (glass containing leaves, in window)	Vestal

(Check-list -- 70 Photographers look at NY)

<u>Name of photographer</u>	<u>Description or title of photograph</u>	<u>Owner of print</u>
WEBB, Todd	248. Greenwich Village (Borsht Bowl)	MOMA
" "	249. 124th St., Harlem (steps)	"
" "	250. Portrait Studio, Canal Street	"
" "	251. Third Avenue, the Bronx	"
" "	252. (doorway of chapel)	"
" "	253. Third Avenue (corset shop window)	"
" "	254. (3 passengers on bus seen thru window)	"
" "	255. Fulton Market	"
" "	256. Orchard Street	"
" "	257. Sixth Avenue (man seated in window)	"
WEEGEE (Arthur Fellig)	258. Opening Night at the Met - "The Critic"	"
"	259. (2 men warming hands at fire)	"
"	260. (6 children asleep in bed)	"
"	261. Tenement Fire -- "I cried when I took this picture"	"
"	262. (man carrying statue of angel)	"
"	263. (mannequins in shop window)	"
"	264. (crowd in front of building)	"
"	265. (man asleep in box)	"
"	266. (sign, "New York is a friendly town")	"
"	267. (man and woman on benches)	"
"	268. Coney Island (mobbed beach)	"
"	269. (charwoman in empty building at night)	"
WEINER, Dan	270. Herald Square (women descending stairs)	Weiner
" "	271. New Year's Eve, Times Square (man blowing horn)	"
" "	272. New Year's Eve, Times Square (couples embracing)	"
" "	273. (policemen, 1 in white gloves)	"
WEISSMANN, Mottke	274. (skyline at night)	MOMA
WESTON, Brett	275. (tree in front of brownstone)	Weston
" "	276. (back view of houses)	Weston (in PC)
WENOGRAND, Garry	277. (2 men and girl in Central Park)	Winogrand
" "	278. (4 telephone booths at night)	"
WITTEMANN, Adolph	279. Hester St., about 1900 - Courtesy of MCNY	MOMA
ZINNEMANN, Fred	280. Broad Street	Zinnemann

Miscellaneous

20 stereographs

UNKNOWN

	281-300 (from about 1859 to 1907)	MCNY
"	301. Fifth Ave. south from 47th St., about 1895	"
"	302. Unveiling of the Statue of Liberty, October 28, 1886 Collection of the Library of Congress	MOMA
"	303. Grant's Funeral Procession, 1885	MCNY
"	304. The Equitable Building fire, 1912	"
"	305. Broadway, north from Barclay St., about 1900	MCNY
"	306. Brooklyn Bridge, about 1875	MCNY
"	307. Shanty-town - last remnant - about 100 St., west of Park Courtesy of MCNY	MOMA