The fourth in a series of exhibitions of photographs from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art will open at the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, on Thursday, February 21. The new installation includes 12 photographs by Dave Heath, 3 by Edward Weston, and one by each of 36 other photographers. They are a sampling of the 6,000 inaccessible photographs which will be available to the interested public in the future Edward Steichen Photography Center. Along with selections from other Museum selections - prints, drawings, design objects, painting and sculpture - the photographs comprise A Bid For Space, a continuing exhibition planned to suggest Museum resources currently withheld from view for lack of space.

Various aspects of photography in black and white are shown in the exhibition - portraits, landscapes, reportage and abstractions. The photographers are American, German, French, Mexican, English and Scottish. Dates range from an 1843 Group of Gentlemen, by Hill and Adamson, and an 1844 Italian Study by Fox Talbot, to work of the 1960's by Heath, Roy de Carava, Ken Heyman, and Frederick Sommer. Among photographs of special interest are George Frederick Watts (c. 1869), by Julia Margaret Cameron, believed by Edward Steichen to be one of the few prints made by the photographer herself. The Manger (c. 1901), a platinum print on Japanese vellum by Gertrude Käsebier, represents an important group of Mrs. Käsebier's photographs recently given to the Museum by her daughter, Mrs. Hermione M. Turner.

Seven of the photographs by Dave Heath are from an unpublished essay, "A Dialogue With Solitude." According to John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, "Dave Heath has combined the freedom and spontaneity of the small-camera approach with a rare formal intensity and precision. His pictures possess stability, simplicity, and great emotional force." Heath was born in Philadelphia in 1931.

Grace M. Mayer, Curator of the Department of Photography, selected A Bid For Space: IV, which was installed by Joseph Del Valle.