

CHRONOLOGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Department of Photography was established in 1940 to function as a focal center where the esthetic problems of photography can be evaluated, where the artist who has chosen the camera as his medium can find guidance by example and encouragement and where the vast amateur public can study both the classics and the most recent and significant developments of photography.

- 1929 The Museum of Modern Art founded
- 1932 Photography first exhibited in MURALS BY AMERICAN PAINTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS; mural of George Washington Bridge by Edward Steichen included. Accompanying catalog edited by Julian Levy.

- 1933 First photographs acquired for Collection

WALKER EVANS: PHOTOGRAPHS OF 19th CENTURY HOUSES - first one-man photography show.

- 1937 First survey exhibition and catalog PHOTOGRAPHY: 1839-1937, by Beaumont Newhall.

- 1938 WALKER EVANS: AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS. Accompanying publication has introduction by Lincoln Kirstein.

Photography: A Short Critical History by Beaumont Newhall published (reprint of 1937 publication).

Sixty photographs sent to the Musee du Jeu de Paume, Paris, as part of exhibition THREE CENTURIES OF AMERICAN ART organized and selected by The Museum of Modern Art.

- 1939 Museum opens building at 11 West 53rd Street.

Section of Art in Our Time (10th Anniversary Exhibition) is devoted to SEVEN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Photographs included in an exhibition of paintings and drawings of Charles Sheeler and in accompanying catalog.

- 1940 Department of Photography is established with David McAlpin, Trustee Chairman, Beaumont Newhall, Curator.

The New Department of Photography, Bulletin Vol. VII No. 2 is published.

WAR COMES TO THE PEOPLE, a story written with the lens.

AMERICAN COLOR PRINTS UNDER \$10

SIXTY PHOTOGRAPHS: A SURVEY OF CAMERA ESTHETICS

- 1941 BRITAIN AT WAR. The war effort as seen by British artists and photographers accompanying publication edited by Monroe Wheeler with text by T. S. Eliot, Herbert Read, E. J. Carter and Carlos Dyer.
- IMAGE OF FREEDOM - 100 prize-winning prints from competition are exhibited.
- AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS AT \$10
- 1942 NEW ACQUISITIONS: PHOTOGRAPHS
Photography Acquisitions - Bulletin Vol. IX No. 3
- DANCES IN MOVEMENT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GJON MILI
- PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND THE AMERICAN FRONTIER
- TWO YEARS OF WAR IN ENGLAND: PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM VANDIVERT
- HOW TO MAKE A PHOTOGRAM
- ROAD TO VICTORY - first exhibition to be directed by Edward Steichen (Guest Director), who was assigned by the Navy to assemble the exhibition.
Accompanying catalog published as Bulletin Vol. IX No. 5-6 with text by Carl Sandburg.
- NEW ACQUISITIONS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALFRED STIEGLITZ
- 1943 The Museum of Modern Art Photography Center is established at 9 West 54th Street. Willard D. Morgan is appointed Director. Purpose of the Center is to provide archive and exhibition space for the 2,000 prints in the Collection, and to serve as a research and information center for those interested in the art of photography. Described in Bulletin Vol. IX No. 2 The Museum of Modern Art Photography Center.
- FACES AND PLACES IN BRAZIL: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GENEVIEVE NAYLOR
- BIRDS IN COLOR: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELIOT PORTER
- HELEN LEVITT: PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN
Eliot Porter: Birds in Color and Helen Levitt: Photographs of Children
Bulletin Vol. X No. 4
- TUNISIAN TRIUMPH: WAR PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELIOT ELISOFON
- ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY
- 1944 THE AMERICAN SNAPSHOT. Publication edited by W. D. Morgan.
- Section of Art in Progress (15th Anniversary Exhibition), is devoted to photographs from the Museum Collection chosen to present "a brief but evocative survey of a century's achievement."
- MANZAANAR: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANSEL ADAMS OF LOYAL JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELOCATION CENTER
- PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

1945 POWER IN THE PACIFIC. Battle photographs of our Navy in action on the sea and in the sky. Directed by Captain Edward Steichen.

Power in the Pacific is published by U.S. Camera. Photographs exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, compiled by Capt. Edward Steichen.

FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHS: DAGUERRE AND ATGET

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

PAUL STRAND: PHOTOGRAPHS 1915-1945. Accompanying book by Nancy Newhall.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

1946 THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EDWARD WESTON. Accompanying book by Nancy Newhall.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

1947 Edward Steichen is appointed Director of the Department of Photography

ALFRED STIEGLITZ: HIS PHOTOGRAPHS

THREE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS: LEONARD McCOMBE, WAYNE MILLER, HOMER PAGE

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON. Accompanying book by Lincoln Kirstein and Beaumont Newhall.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS. Accompanying publication Bulletin Vol. XV No. 2.

1948 IN AND OUT OF FOCUS: A SURVEY OF TODAY'S PHOTOGRAPHY

50 PHOTOGRAPHS BY 50 PHOTOGRAPHERS

PHOTO-SECESSION GROUP (American Photography 1902-1910)

FOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS: LISETTE MODEL, BILL BRANDT, TED CORNER AND HARRY CALLAHAN

1949 THE EXACT INSTANT - (100 years of news photography)

ROOTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY: HILL, ADAMSON, CAMERON

REALISM IN PHOTOGRAPHY: RALPH STEINER, WAYNE MILLER, TOSH MATSUMOTO AND FREDERICK SOMMER

SIX WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS: MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE, HELEN LEVITT, DOROTHEA LANGE, TANA HOBAN, AND HAZEL AND FRIEDA LARSEN

ROOTS OF FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHY - French photographs before 1870, borrowed from George Eastman house, Rochester, New York.

History of Photography by Beaumont Newhall is published (3rd Edition of 1937 Publication).

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- 1950 PHOTOGRAPHS OF PICASSO BY GJON MILI AND ROBERT CAPA
NEWLY ACQUIRED PHOTOGRAPHS OF STIEGLITZ AND ATGET
COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY
51 AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHERS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEWIS CARROLL
Symposium - What is Modern Photography? - Edward Steichen, moderator, Margaret Bourke-White, Walker Evans, Gjon Mili, Lisette Model, Wright Morris, Homer Page, Irving Penn, Ben Shahn, Charles Sheeler and Aaron Siskind participating.
- 1951 KOREA: THE IMPACT OF WAR IN PHOTOGRAPHS
ABSTRACTION IN PHOTOGRAPHY
TWELVE PHOTOGRAPHERS
FORGOTTEN PHOTOGRAPHERS - An exhibition of prints by unknown or unremembered American Photographers who, over the past 100 years have filed prints with the U.S. Copyright Office.
MEMORABLE LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS - Accompanying book published by Life with foreword and comments by Edward Steichen.
CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHS - Photographic prints for sale to the public.
FIVE FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHERS: BRASSAI, CARTIER-BRESSON, DOISNEAU, RONIS, IZOS
- 1952 DIOGENES WITH A CAMERA, I: (Edward Weston, Frederick Sommer, Harry Callahan, Esther Bubley, Eliot Porter, W. Eugene Smith)
THEN (1839) AND NOW (1952)
DIOGENES WITH A CAMERA, II: (Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Tosh Matsumoto, Aaron Siskind, Todd Webb)
Photography at The Museum of Modern Art - Bulletin Vol. XIX No. 4
- 1953 ALWAYS THE YOUNG STRANGERS - 25 young American photographers whose work has never before been shown at the Museum.
POST-WAR EUROPEAN PHOTOGRAPHY - more than 300 photographs by 78 photographers from 11 countries includes portraits, documentary work and abstract and surrealist compositions.
- 1954 Masters of Modern Art, edited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr. is published. Photography section by Edward Steichen is illustrated with outstanding photographs from the Museum Collection.
- 1955 THE FAMILY OF MAN - conceived and directed by Edward Steichen, the exhibition consists of more than 500 photographs taken by 273 photographers all over the world and is a comprehensive exploration of photography's achievements in recording human relations.

1955 (cont'd)

Family of Man, prologue by Carl Sandburg, introduction by Edward Steichen is published.

1956 DIOGENES WITH A CAMERA III: (Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Walker Evans, August Sanders, Paul Strand)

DIOGENES WITH A CAMERA IV: (Gustav Schenk, William Garnett, Marie-Jean Beraus-Villars, Shirley Burden)

LANGUAGE OF THE WALL: PARISIAN GRAFFITI PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRASSAI

1957 SEVENTY PHOTOGRAPHERS LOOK AT NEW YORK. Accompanying booklet contains statements about New York by Walt Whitman, E. B. White, Le Corbusier, Carl Sandburg, Christopher Morley and others.

Lecture by Edward Steichen on Experimental Photography in Color.

1958 3,000 photographs in the Museum Collection; additional 2,800 in the study collection.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION - 500 photographs taken between 1838 and 1958 by 300 photographers in 18 countries.

1959 THE ARTIST IN HIS STUDIO - Photographs by Alexander Liberman. Exhibition is directed by William Lieberman, Director, Department of Drawings and Prints. Book published by Viking Press.

30th Anniversary Exhibition of selections from the Photography Collection included in A BID FOR SPACE I.

Grace Mayer appointed Assistant to the Director.

1960 THE SENSE OF ABSTRACTION IN CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

A BID FOR SPACE II - new installation

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR COLLECTORS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

1961 STEICHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER

DIOGENES WITH A CAMERA V: Lucien Clergue, Yasuhiro Ishimoto and Harry Callahan

1962 John Szarkowski is appointed Director, Department of Photography; Grace Mayer, Curator; Edward Steichen, Director Emeritus.

HARRY CALLAHAN AND ROBERT FRANK

A BID FOR SPACE III

WALKER EVANS: AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS - A selection of photographs exhibited in connection with the new printing of the now classic book.

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1962 (cont'd)

THE BITTER YEARS: 1935-41; Rural America Seen by the Photographers of the Farm Security Administration. Publication edited by Edward Steichen.

Farm Security Administration Photography Project - symposium with Roy Stryker, Ben Shahn, Arthur Rothstein and René d'Harnoncourt.

ERNST HAAS: COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

1963 Appointment Calendar illustrated with photographs from the Collection is published by the Junior Council.

1963 FIVE UNRELATED PHOTOGRAPHERS: Ken Heyman, George Kraus, Jerome Liebling, Minor White and Gary Winogrand

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JACQUES HENRI LARTIGUE - accompanying publication issued as Bulletin Vol. XXX No. 1, edited by John Szarkowski.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE - accompanying publication with text by John Szarkowski.

Edward Steichen: A Life in Photography is published by Doubleday & Co., Inc. in co-operation with The Museum of Modern Art.

John Szarkowski lectures on Three Photographers in Color (William Garnett, Helen Levitt and Roman Vishniac).

Helmut Gernsheim lectures on The History of Photography

May 27, 1964 Opening of the Edward Steichen Photography Center in the "new" Museum of Modern Art. The Center provides permanent gallery space for changing exhibitions of about 170 prints from the Collection and houses a study room where the remainder of the Collection - about 7,000 prints - is accessible to interested students, as is the Department's extensive library of books, periodicals and archive material.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE - A loan show of 200 photographs borrowed from public and private collections here and abroad. Selected by John Szarkowski to epitomize the visual and pictorial concepts which are peculiar to the photographic medium. These concepts range from the way photographers make use of significant detail and the picture edge to explorations of time and motion.

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PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS CIRCULATED IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA 1932-1964

Over 40 exhibitions have been sent to museums and educational institutions by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS CIRCULATED ABROAD

- 1938 Section of THREE CENTURIES OF AMERICAN ART-(exhibition sent to the Jeu de Paume, Paris), is devoted to 60 photographs by 23 photographers.
- 1943 ROAD TO VICTORY - Sent to Great Britain under the auspices of the U.S. Office of War Information; British Ministry of Information. Sent to Uruguay and Colombia under the auspices of the U.S. Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Small version of exhibition sent to Hawaii under the auspices of the Honolulu Academy of Arts.
- 1944 100 YEARS OF PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY sent to Mexico City.
- 1948 LEADING PHOTOGRAPHERS: WALKER EVANS sent to Hamilton, Bermuda under the auspices of The Bermuda Art Association.
- 1950 IN AND OUT OF FOCUS sent to Germany under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.
- 1953 CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY sent to Japan under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.
- 1955 - THE FAMILY OF MAN - Four copies of the exhibition commissioned by The
1962 United States Information Agency have been seen in 28 countries. In 1959 the exhibition is sent to the U.S. Exhibition in Moscow.
- 1961- THE ARTIST IN HIS STUDIO sent to Great Britain and Kenya under the auspices
63 of the International Circulating Exhibitions Program of The Museum of Modern Art. Circulated in France under the auspices of The French Ministry of Arts and Letters.
- 1963 STEICHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER sent to Germany under the auspices of the International Circulating Exhibitions Program of The Museum of Modern Art.

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PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

The Bitter Years: 1935-1941. Rural America as Seen by the Photographers of the Farm Security Administration, edited by Edward Steichen. 36 pages; 27 plates.

Walker Evans: American Photographs by Lincoln Kirstein. 198 pages; 87 plates. (First published in 1938 and re-issued in response to many requests.)

The Family of Man. Introduction by Edward Steichen. Prologue by Carl Sandburg. 192 pages; 503 plates.

The Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue, edited by John Szarkowski. 24 pages; 18 plates.

The Photographer and the American Landscape, edited by John Szarkowski. 48 pages; 37 plates.

Steichen the Photographer. Foreword by René d'Harnoncourt; texts by Carl Sandburg, Alexander Liberman, and Edward Steichen; biographical outline by Grace M. Mayer. 80 pages; 55 plates.

Memorable LIFE Photographs, edited by Edward Steichen

The History of Photography by Beaumont Newhall. 216 pages; 219 plates. The text has been completely revised and enlarged and more than fifty photographs have been added since the book was first published in 1937. The book now covers the developments of photography from 1820 to recent color experiments and other innovations here and abroad. To be published in the Fall of 1964.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y.
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