

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 66

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, June 30, 1965

PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, June 29, 1965

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

IMPROBABLE PHOTOGRAPHS by Elliott Erwitt will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from June 30 through September 30. The exhibition of about 45 photographs, dating from 1950 to 1964, deals with the absurdity of the commonplace. This will be the second in a series of small one-man exhibitions emphasizing a significant period or aspect of the work of outstanding photographers shown in the Edward Steichen Photography Center on the third floor. The exhibition was selected by John Szarkowski, Director of the Photography Department.

Mr. Szarkowski says, "These documents of the secret life of Elliott Erwitt describe a world that is ordinary, fascinating and ludicrous. Erwitt's observation deals with the empty spaces between occurrences -- with the anticlimactic non-event. His subjects are the patient victims of unspecified misunderstandings, awaiting the prompter's cue on a stage designed for a different play. Over their inactivity hangs the premonition of a pratfall. From these unmemorable occasions Erwitt has distilled, with wit and grace and clarity, the indecisive moment."

Elliott Erwitt was born in Paris in 1928 and spent most of his youth in Italy before coming to the United States in the early 40's. He became an American citizen in 1947. A professional photographer since the age of 16, having done such work as the mass printing of movie stars' pictures for studios and passport photos, he was befriended in 1951 in Paris by Robert Capa, who was instrumental in having Erwitt join the Magnum group in 1953. He has travelled throughout the world on photographic assignments ranging from fashion to advertising. The first major exhibition of his work was shown at the Smithsonian Institution in 1963. His pictures have been previously shown at the Museum in The Family of Man (1955) and in The Photographer's Eye (1964).

Photographs and additional information available from Linda Goldsmith, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.

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CHECKLIST

ELLIOTT ERWITT: IMPROBABLE PHOTOGRAPHS

June 30 - September 30, 1965

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| 1. WASHINGTON, D.C., 1954 (65.693) | 24. NEW HAVEN, 1956 (65.683) |
| 2. NEW MEXICO, 1962 (65.686) | 25. LAS VEGAS, 1954 (65.682) |
| 3. NEW MEXICO, 1963 (65.694) | 26. BUDAPEST, 1964 (65.698) |
| 4. HOLLYWOOD, 1959 (65.704) | 27. BRNO, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1964 (65.705) |
| 5. NEW YORK, 1953 (65.680) | 28. WILMINGTON, N.C., 1950 (65.675) |
| 6. NEW YORK, 1954 (65.697) | 29. PITTSBURGH, 1951 (65.692) |
| 7. CAMBRIDGE, MASS., 1956 (65.681) | 30. NEW JERSEY, 1953 (65.696) |
| 8. SOUTH CAROLINA, 1962 (65.688) | 31. BRASILIA, 1961 (65.721) |
| 9. BRASILIA, 1961 (65.691) | 32. PARIS, 1952 (65.725) |
| 10. GDANSK (DANZIG), POLAND, 1964 (65.679) | 33. RIO DE JANEIRO, 1963 (65.726) |
| 11. NICARAGUA, 1958(?) (65.695) | 34. LAS PALMAS, 1964 (65.727) |
| 12. CANARY ISLANDS, 1964 (65.700) | 35. RIO DE JANEIRO, 1963 (65.724) |
| 13. MIAMI, 1962 (65.712) | 36. BAHIA, BRAZIL, 1963 (65.723) |
| 14. FLORENCE, ITALY, 1950 (65.719) | 37. BRASILIA, 1961 (65.703) |
| 15. POLAND, 1964 (65.720) | 38. BUDAPEST, 1964 (65.687) |
| 16. BERKELEY, CALIF., 1958(?) (65.714) | 39. SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 1963 (65.702) |
| 17. POLAND, 1964 (65.716) | 40. LUXOR, EGYPT, 1958 (65.685) |
| 18. NEW YORK, 1962 (65.718) | 41. LAS PALMAS, CANARY ISLANDS, 1964
(65.677) |
| 19. SOPOT, POLAND, 1964 (65.715) | 42. NEW YORK, 1956(?) (65.690) |
| 20. GUANAJUATO, MEXICO, 1958 (65.728) | 43. MICHIGAN, 1955 (65.701) |
| 21. PASADENA, CALIF., 1963 (65.729) | 44. NEW JERSEY, 1951 (65.706) |
| 22. AUSCHWITZ, 1964 (65.713) | 45. PARIS, 1952. Series of 4.
(65811.1-4) |
| 23. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, 1964 (65.676) | 46. DIVES-sur-MER, 1965. Series of 12.
(65810.1-12) |

Photographs on loan from the photographer.

Prints by Arthur Tcholak.