

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS: PHOTOGRAPHY, an exhibition of approximately 40 representative works chosen from almost 2,000 prints acquired by The Museum of Modern Art's Photography Department in the past five years, will go on view in the Edward Steichen Photography Center on the Museum's third floor on October 6.

The exhibition, selected by Yeu-Bun Yee of the Photography Department, contains the work of about 35 photographers. Although a few date from the 1890's, the majority were taken by young photographers within the last few years. In his introduction to the exhibition, Mr. Yee says, "The intent of a photographer is best revealed in his total work. The Recent Acquisitions exhibition consists of separate definitive statements giving extracts from the photographers' more encompassing portfolios. In this context, there must be a willingness on the part of the spectator to experience each photograph for its fullest intention."

Among the photographers in the exhibition are C. E. Watkins and H. H. Bennett, who worked before the turn of the century, and Diane Arbus, Lee Friedlander, Dwain Faubien, Irwin Klein, Simpson Kalisher and Stephen Perrin, who are working today.

The Museum's unique Photography Collection consists of more than 7,000 prints by 1,000 photographers, ranging from 1839 to the present, with emphasis on 20th century work. All the works acquired are studied, discussed and voted on by the Committee on the Museum Collections before being submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Works are brought before the Committee by members of the curatorial staff of various departments -- in this case, the Director of the Department of Photography, John Szarkowski -- in consultation with the Director of Museum Collections.

In the Edward Steichen Photography Center's galleries about 200 prints from the Collection are always on view in addition to a special series of temporary shows

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drawn from the Collection or on temporary loan to the Museum. Large loan shows are also presented periodically in the Museum's first floor exhibition galleries.

The Museum initially exhibited photographs in 1932, just three years after the institution was founded, and began to acquire them for the Collection the following year. In 1940, The Museum of Modern Art became the first to establish a curatorial department devoted exclusively to this medium. But, it was only with the addition of the Photography Center in May, 1964, that the Department was provided with permanent exhibition space and accessible study-storage area so that its outstanding collection of photographs can now be consulted and viewed by students, scholars and the interested public.

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