

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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MARIE COSINDAS: POLAROID COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS, an exhibition of approximately 40 recent color prints -- mostly still life and portraits - made by the Boston photographer will be shown in The Museum of Modern Art's Edward Steichen Photography Center from April 13 through July 4.

The exhibition, selected by John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Photography Department, is the first devoted entirely to prints made by the Polaroid-Land process to be shown at The Museum of Modern Art.

Miss Cosindas' photographs have a unique poetic quality, enhanced by exotic color and startling detail: a blue rose set against a richly colored Oriental rug, bright yellow static against a Spanish shawl. The 4 x 5" prints have been specially matted and mounted on colored papers chosen by Miss Cosindas for the exhibition.

Mr. Szarkowski says, "The photographs of Marie Cosindas are as real and as unlikely as butterflies. Their delicate otherworldliness refers to a place and time not quite identifiable -- to a place with the morning-fresh textures and the opalescent light of a private Arcady, and to a time suspended, as in a child's long holiday.

"Yet the edge of acute observation saves the pictures from softness, and makes them not merely reveries but discoveries. They are -- as Marianne Moore said poems should be -- imaginary gardens with real toads in them."

Miss Cosindas was born in Boston in 1925 and studied design at the Boston School of Design, and painting and graphics at the Boston Museum School. In 1960 she studied photography with Paul Caponigro and the following year with Ansel Adams. In 1963-64 she studied at Minor White's photography workshop.

In recent years her work has been widely shown in the United States, at the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York; at the Kodak Pavillion at the New

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York World's Fair; at the Chicago Institute of Design; at the Worcester Art Center, Massachusetts; and in "American Photography: The Sixties" shown in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her photographs are in the collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, Massachusetts; George Eastman House; and the Polaroid Corporation in Cambridge, as well as The Museum of Modern Art.

The original Polaroid-Land process was invented by Edwin H. Land in 1947. A one-step method, it allows the photographer to inspect a finished print in the presence of the subject, eliminating the need to transfer the print from negative to positive film. In 1963 the Polaroid Corporation introduced color film for use in its cameras. The film is a multilayer emulsion with yellow, cyan and magenta dyes in the layers sensitive to blue, red and green light. On processing, the dyes are diffused to the positive sheet of film.

The exhibition is one of a continuing series of small shows emphasizing a significant period or aspect of the work of one photographer, or of recent photography acquisitions; among them SISKIND RECENTLY, IMPROBABLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELLIOTT ERWITT and THE HAMPTON ALBUM. These shows supplement the larger photography exhibitions shown periodically in the Museum's first floor galleries, such as the recent DOROTHEA LANGE retrospective.

The Edward Steichen Photography Center, which opened in May 1964, contains the Museum's unique Photography Collection of over 7,000 prints dating from 1839 to the present day. About 200 photographs from the Collection are continuously on view, those not on view can be viewed in the fourth floor Study Room of the Steichen Center, by appointment.

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.