

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Forty photographs by the young American photographer BRUCE DAVIDSON, including works from his essays on England, Wales, Los Angeles and the American Negro, will be on view in the third floor galleries of the Edward Steichen Photography Center at The Museum of Modern Art from July 7 through September.

John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, who selected the photographs in the exhibition, says, "Few contemporary photographers give us their observation so unembellished -- so free of apparent craft or artifice -- as does Bruce Davidson. In his work, formal and technical concerns remain below the surface, all but invisible. The presence that fills these pictures seems the presence of the life that is described, scarcely changed by its transmutation into art."

Davidson's earlier work, seen in the exhibition in his 1960 English essay which was originally commissioned by the London magazine The Queen and later published in this country in Horizon, is spontaneous and intuitive, it delights in the fugitive and the evanescent, according to Mr. Szarkowski. His more recent work, exemplified by his photographs of the Negro American, is more reflective and deliberate.

Bruce Davidson was born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1933. He became interested in photography during childhood and committed to a career in that field while still in high school. After undergraduate study at the Rochester Institute of Technology, he studied art and philosophy at Yale University. In 1958, he joined Magnum Photos, Inc. In 1962, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and produced a photographic study on the American Negro.

Davidson's work has been widely published in the United States and abroad and has been widely exhibited in this country. His photographs were first shown at The Museum of Modern Art in 1958-59 in an exhibition of photographs from the Museum's collection, and his photographic essay "Brooklyn Gang" was included in the inaugural exhibition in the Steichen Galleries in May 1964. Last year a one-man exhibition

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of his works was held at The Art Institute of Chicago.

The present exhibition is part of a continuing series of small shows in the Steichen Galleries emphasizing the work of one photographer or presenting recent photographic acquisitions. These shows are presented in addition to the larger photography exhibitions shown periodically in the Museum's first floor galleries.

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

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.