

The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 40

FOR RELEASE:

Saturday, April 29, 1967

PRESS PREVIEW:

Friday, April 28, 1967

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Denis Brihat and Jean-Pierre Sudre of France and Pierre Cordier of Belgium are the three photographers whose unique or limited edition prints are shown in A EUROPEAN EXPERIMENT on view at The Museum of Modern Art from April 29 through June.

These three photographers are interested in the physical quality of the print itself, in color and texture expressing the nature of the photographic process, rather than the character of an exterior subject.

John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, who selected the works in this exhibition, points out in his introduction to the show that, "These three photographers have concerned themselves with questions and potentials that have lain outside the mainstream of photography....The pictures here...attempt to deal with the universal through abstraction rather than through symbol; the prints are conceived as unique or semi-unique objects, rather than as the copy for mass media reproductions; they are not to be regarded as windows on the world, but rather as small bits of the world itself, with their own color and texture and shape and provenance."

Denis Brihat finds his subjects in nature and sees "mankind as a part of nature but not the center of it." The seven works by him in the exhibition are abstract conceptions of the world around him: his garden, a wood owl, a frozen plant, star clover. He has said that the best definition of his own photography can be found in William Blake's Auguries of Innocence: "To see the world in a grain of sand/ and a heaven in a wild flower/ Hold infinity in the palm of your hand/ and eternity in an hour."

Born in Paris in 1928, Brihat has been a professional photographer since 1947. He was the recipient of the Prix Niépce de Photographie in 1957 and of the Prix Nadar in 1964. In 1965 his work was shown at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris; in 1966 the works of Brihat, Cordier and Sudre were shown at the Galerie
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Les Contards in Lacoste, Provence, and in February of this year at the Aztek Galleries in Helsinki, Finland.

Pierre Cordier was born in Brussels in 1933, studied political science at the University of Brussels and later studied photography under Professor Otto Steinert in Saarbrücken, Germany. He became interested in photography while in school, discovered his first "chimigramme" in 1956 and has, since then, concentrated on photographic and graphic research, developing his unique "chimigrammes," "hydrogrammes," "luminigrammes," "rotogrammes," and "cinégrammes." The nine photographs by Cordier in the show are from his "chimigrammes" series, one of which was acquired by The Museum of Modern Art in 1966. Since 1965, he has been a teacher of photography at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et des Arts Visuels in Brussels.

Jean-Pierre Sudre was born in Paris in 1921. He studied at l'Ecole Nationale de Photographie et de Cinématographie in 1941-1943 and in 1943-1944 at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinématographiques. He became a professional photographer in 1946; his works were first exhibited in 1952. Since then his photographs have been shown at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, and an exhibition of 29 of his abstract panel photographs was shown in several cities in Germany in 1965 and 1966.

All three men are represented by Galleries Les Contards in Provence.

The exhibition is part of the continuing series of smaller shows devoted to a particular artist or theme presented in the Edward Steichen Photography Center, where a selection of works from the Museum's Collection is continuously on view. These smaller shows supplement the large-scale photographic exhibitions periodically installed in the Museum's first floor galleries during the year.

Additional information and photographs 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, ext. 203.