

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

March 1969

## JOHN SZARKOWSKI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

John Szarkowski was named Director of the Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art on July 1, 1962. Since then he has directed over twenty exhibitions at the Museum, including The Photographer and the American Landscape (1963), The Photographer's Eye (1964), Once Invisible (1967), and retrospective exhibitions of the work of Dorothea Lange, André Kertész, Cartier-Bresson, and Brassai.

Mr. Szarkowski has also been responsible for the continuing series of smaller exhibitions devoted to a single artist or theme which has been presented in the Edward Steichen Photography Center since May 1965. The series has included Siskind Recently, The Hampton Album, Marie Cosindas: Polaroid Color Photographs, Walker Evans' Subway, From the McAlpin Collection, Jerry N. Uelsmann, Ray K. Metzker, and My European Trip by Joel Meyrowitz. Many of these exhibitions have been circulated throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.

In addition to these exhibitions, Mr. Szarkowski supervises the Museum's growing collection of about 15,000 photographic prints dating from about 1840 to the present day, and the Edward Steichen Photography Center, in which a rotating selection of about 200 photographs from the collection is continuously on view. Among recent acquisitions to the photography collection is the Atget Collection, consisting of several thousand original prints and approximately 1,000 negatives by that 20th-century French master.

The Center also includes a study center in which an extensive specialized library and archive, along with the collection itself, are accessible to the student, the scholar, the photographer, and other members of the interested public.

Books have been prepared by Mr. Szarkowski for a number of the Museum's exhibitions, including The Photographer's Eye published in December, 1965. This

(more)

is an investigation through text and pictures of photographic style and tradition. He is the author of several other books published by the Museum, including The Photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue (1963), The Photographer and the American Landscape (1963), and André Kertész: Photographer (1964).

Mr. Szarkowski, with Peter Bunnell of the department's staff, teaches a course at the Museum in the History of Photography for graduate students at New York University. He also lectures in various parts of the country and has contributed to many professional periodicals.

Before joining the Museum staff, Mr. Szarkowski had received two Guggenheim fellowships for his own photography. With the aid of the first he produced The Idea of Louis Sullivan (1956), published by the University of Minnesota Press; the second in 1961 allowed him to photograph the Quetico-Superior wilderness of western Ontario. He also wrote and photographed The Face of Minnesota (1958), which was financed by a grant from the University of Minnesota Press. Mr. Szarkowski formerly taught photography at the University of Buffalo and at the University of Minnesota. He also served as the associate editor of the Walker Art Center's Quarterly.

John Szarkowski was born in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1925, graduated with a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. He is married to the former Jill Anson and has one daughter, Nina.

\* \* \* \* \*