

# The Museum of Modern Art

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LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS: 100 PICTURES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART by John Szarkowski. 216 pages; 100 illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound \$15.00; paperbound \$9.50. Clothbound edition distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd.

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LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS: 100 PICTURES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART by John Szarkowski will be published by the Museum May 14. "This is a picture book, and its first purpose is to provide the material for simple delectation. Beyond this it hopes to show something of the character and intent of the Museum's photography collections, and to suggest some of the ways in which the study of photography touches the broader issues of modern art and modern sensibility," Mr. Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, says in his Introduction. This first survey of the Museum's photography collection also serves as an excellent introduction to the esthetics of photography.

Each of the 100 photographs is accompanied by an essay defining its special place in the evolution of this young medium. In these concise, often witty analyses, the author explores many of the most interesting formal and social questions that photography raises. The photographs are reproduced in duotone, and fifteen are printed in a sepia that simulates the gold-toned original prints.

Since 1930, when the Museum accessioned its first photograph, it has assembled a unique archive of pictures for study, preservation, and exhibition. Mr. Szarkowski's choices indicate the vast range of this collection. The Museum's photography collection has not been conceived as an enclave of immutable masterpieces, but rather as a tool that might contribute to a fuller understanding of the medium's achievements and potentials. Photography has learned about its own nature not only from its great masters, but also from the simple and radical works of photographs of modest aspiration and small renown. Some of the photographs in this book are familiar classics and well-loved favorites; but many are surprising, little-known

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