

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 97A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDWARD WESTON RETROSPECTIVE MAJOR MUSEUM OF MODERN ART EXHIBITION

First recognized abroad by his election to the prestigious London Salon in 1917 more than five decades ago, the American photographer, Edward Weston, now internationally recognized as a major artist of the 20th century will have his first full scale retrospective exhibition in the U.S. at The Museum of Modern Art in N. Y. in January 1975. After the New York showing (Jan. 29 - March 31) the exhibition will tour.

Made possible by grants from SCM Corporation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the exhibition will explore Weston's contribution to the visual arts of this century during five decades of a distinguished career. Willard Van Dyke, well-known photographer, filmmaker and critic, and Weston's colleague for many years, is guest director of the show.

John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, characterizes Weston as a major artist whose work has changed our perception of what the world and life are like. "It was as though the things of everyday experience had been transformed for Weston into organic sculptures, the forms of which were both the expression and the justification of the life within. The exhilarating visual power of Weston's work is the product of a deeper achievement: He had freed his eyes of conventional expectation, and had taught them to see the statement of intent that resides in natural form."

Weston was born in 1886. He became a professional photographer in his early 20's and opened his first studio in California in 1911. He moved to Mexico in 1923 where he earned a precarious living doing commercial portraiture, while continuing to develop a new approach to photography in his independent work. In 1926 he returned to California, which remained his base

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until his death at Carmel in 1958. In 1937 he became the first photographer to be awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Edward Weston, Photographer: The Flame of Recognition, edited by Nancy Newhall, is being re-issued in a special Museum edition by the publisher Aperture on the occasion of the exhibition. The book grew out of the catalog prepared by Mrs. Newhall for the one-man Weston show at The Museum of Modern Art in 1946. The book in its present form -- photographs accompanied by excerpts from Weston's Daybooks and Letters -- was first published in 1958, and was revised and enlarged in 1965 and 1971.

Edward Weston: Fifty Years, by Ben Maddow, another Aperture monograph, will also be available at the Museum Bookstores. When it was published last spring, Hilton Kramer in The New York Times said it was "nothing less than one of the best books about a great photographer we ever had."

Many photographs in the exhibition are from the Museum's own extensive collection of Weston's work; others are being borrowed from private and public collections.

11/11/74

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director
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