

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

To Chicago only ²⁴⁶

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDWARD WESTON RETROSPECTIVE ADVANCE ON MAJOR MUSEUM WINTER EXHIBITION

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw,
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The first major retrospective of photographs by Edward Weston since his death in 1958 will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from January 29 through March 31, 1975 before starting a national tour. The exhibition, made possible by grants from SCM Corporation and the National Endowment for the Arts, 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.

Weston began his career in Chicago, where he was born (in Highland Falls) in 1886. He took his first photographs in Chicago parks with a Bull's Eye camera given him by his father. He also worked for Marshall Field for three years until he was 20 while he continued to photograph.

In 1906 he went to California for a holiday, and except for some years in Mexico, made the American West Coast his home until his death in 1958.

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."

(more)

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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.

After the New York showing the exhibition will travel throughout the country.

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