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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Man Ray was born in Philadelphia in 1890 and took up photography in New York in 1915, the year he began a lifelong friendship with Marcel Duchamp. In 1921 he moved to Paris where he became an important member of Dada and Surrealist circles and supported himself by fashion and portrait photography and by photographing works of art. He returned to this country just before the War, but since 1951 has lived again in Paris. Earlier this year The New York Cultural Center held a retrospective of his work in all media.

Frederick Sommer has been a painter, an architect, a designer, a composer, a poet, and a photographer. He was born in Italy in 1905 and raised in Brazil. He received the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture from Cornell in 1927, and has lived in Arizona since 1931. He met Edward Weston in 1938 and Max Ernst in 1941 and maintained lasting friendships with both. In 1938 he began work with an 8 x 10 camera. Aperture magazine devoted an issue to Sommer's photographs and poems in 1962 and is currently preparing a monograph of his work.

Clarence John Laughlin was born in Louisiana in 1905 and with little interruption has lived in New Orleans since 1910. After a decade of writing poetry and fiction, he began making photographs in 1935. His pictures were exhibited at Julien Levy Gallery, New York, in 1940, and during the following year Laughlin photographed for Vogue Studios. He has worked steadily as an architectural photographer, compiling an extensive documentation of American Victorian buildings in particular. His photographs have been published widely; in 1973 Aperture brought out a monograph of his work to accompany a major exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Robert Cumming was born in Massachusetts in 1943 and grew up and attended college in Boston. He received an M.F.A. from the University of Illinois at Champaign in 1967. Like Man Ray, he took up photography to document his own and others' works of art. In 1970 he moved to California where he currently lives. Since about that time photography has been his favored medium. He has published four books, one with The Coach House Press, Toronto: A Training in the Arts (1972); and three independently: Picture Fictions (1971), The Weight of Franchise Meat (1971), and A Discourse on Domestic Disorder (1975).