

The Museum of Modern Art

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

LONGER VIEWS: 40 PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK NIXON

Forty photographs by Nicholas Nixon, a recipient of a 1976 Guggenheim Fellowship in photography, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art through October 5. Nixon's photographs are, most characteristically, panoramic, densely detailed cityscapes--primarily views of Boston, but also including shots of New York--taken from skyscraper altitudes. Also included in this exhibition, almost as a personal and pastoral counterpoint to the exposition of urban forms and architectural textures, are a number of family portraits and views of suburban streets and landscapes.

Writing of the distinctive qualities and procedures of Nixon's work, especially when seen against the dominant formal imperatives of modern photography, John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, writes: "During this century the main lines of photographic experiment have sought the economical and forceful image, characterized by a design simple enough to be readable on a postage stamp, or on a 35 mm. contact sheet. Robert Capa explained the basic idea neatly when he said, 'If your pictures aren't good, you're not close enough.'

"It is an epigram that might have served many artists of the period, surely including Ernest Hemingway and William Carlos Williams. In these terms the photographs of Nicholas Nixon seem pugnaciously antimodern, consonant in feeling not with the pungent and elliptical rhythms of modern writing, but with the discursive, densely textured expository periods of an earlier time.

"These pictures were made slowly and deliberately, with solicitous regard for every jot and tittle of information within the frame. They should be looked at in the same manner. Although they do not demand attention, they will repay it."

Nicholas Nixon was born in Detroit in 1947. He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan, where he majored in American literature, and his M.F.A. (in photography) from the University of New Mexico. In 1975 he received a grant

(more)

for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 1976 was awarded a Fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He lives in Boston.

Additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7295; 7501.
