

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 85A
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GALLERY TO HOLD RECENTLY ACQUIRED PHOTOGRAPHS

The Department of Photography of The Museum of Modern Art has set aside one gallery in the Edward Steichen Photography Center exclusively for the exhibition of recently acquired photographs. Selections from the several hundred prints acquired each year will be continually rotated.

"Since its first acquisition in 1930 the primary concern of the Department of Photography has been the collecting of significant works," comments Peter Collins, Curatorial Intern. "The collection as a whole serves as a resource to illustrate both the achievements and the potentials of the medium. The two are mutually interdependent, forming a casual relationship not unlike that of the chicken and the egg. Thus the collection is constantly growing, and the act of collecting is simultaneously responsible to the work of contemporary practitioners and to the known and the as-yet-undiscovered workers of the past. Most often [these photographs] answer no concern other than the desire that some such sample be seen. It is hoped that they may, at the same time, be enjoyed as entities in themselves, studied as historical and cultural documents, and perhaps digested by younger artists, whose own work is ultimately their chief beneficiary and critic."

The initial installation in the Recent Acquisitions gallery consists of fifteen photographs by Paul Strand, all acquired from the photographer in 1976. The photographs, dating from 1915 to 1954 include examples of all his major concerns ranging from his early allegiance to the Photo-Secession to his mature documentary style as exemplified in the classic Time in New England, published in 1950.

November 1977