

The Museum of Modern Art

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STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS ON EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

STILL LIFE: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, an exhibition of approximately 40 photographs selected from the permanent collection, opens in the Steichen Galleries on October 8, 1981 and will remain on view until January 3, 1982. Belinda Rathbone is the director of the exhibition and a former curatorial intern in the Department of Photography at the Museum.

The exhibition explores a wide range of ideas that photographs have brought to still life. But while the photographs represent obvious departures from traditional still life, they also illuminate a continuation of its major themes. Three main concerns have been identified in this varied collection of photographs. The work of Paul Outerbridge, for example, represents a concern for the form of objects and their relationship to the structure of the total image. Frederick Sommer, on the other hand, has been concerned with the meaning of an object and its metaphoric potential. Finally, the work of Walker Evans and Henri Cartier-Bresson examines the object in a documentary context and is concerned with the everyday facts of the object's existence.

Altogether 31 photographers of the 20th century are represented in the exhibition, including Edward Weston, Alfred Stieglitz, Imogen Cunningham,

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Irving Penn, Man Ray, Lee Friedlander, William Larson and Lucas Samaras. As Miss Rathbone points out, "If the photographers represented here did not in every case set out to make a still life, they have nevertheless added to our understanding of what a still life might be."

The Museum of Modern Art's overall exhibition program is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

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