

# The Museum of Modern Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
No. 66

Public Information

## NEW EXHIBITION FROM THE GILMAN COLLECTION OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Photographs from one of the world's distinguished private collections, and extraordinary photo-offset reproductions of these original works, will be displayed when From the Gilman Collection: Photographs Preserved in Ink opens on Thursday, November 15 at the Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition, organized by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography, juxtaposes original prints with their reproductions.

Thirty-two works from the Gilman Collection, including photographs by Roger Fenton, Mathew B. Brady, Edward Weston, Lewis Carroll, Constantin Brancusi, and Man Ray will be shown in the exhibition, which spans almost ninety years of photographic history, from William Henry Fox Talbot's A Scene in a Library (1844) to Walker Evan's Dock Worker, Havana, Cuba (1932).

The photo-offset reproductions, from a forthcoming album on the collections, were commissioned by the Gilman Paper Company and realized by Richard Benson. John Szarkowski says that the album "will make more widely available, with a degree of fidelity not formerly attained in reproduction, a significant fragment of photography's heritage. Perhaps even more important, the project makes an original contribution to our understanding of the degree to which the rare and fragile achievement of photography's most significant contributions might be preserved for a far distant future."

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Richard Benson has created these reproductions without benefit of light meters, film processors, laser scanners or computers. Mr. Benson writes, "All these modern tools have been ignored in the belief that they only interfere with the real tools--the eye, mind and hand functioning through their extensions, the camera and press, to make an object with that sort of complexity that defies external, particulate, description."

From the Gilman Collection: Photographs Preserved in Ink will be on exhibit at the Edward Steichen Photography Center of The Museum of Modern Art from November 15, 1984 through February 26, 1985.

November, 1984

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