

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
June 1988

FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION** NICHOLAS NIXON: PICTURES OF PEOPLE
- DATES** September 15 - November 13, 1988
- ORGANIZATION** Peter Galassi, Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art
- SPONSORSHIP** The publication accompanying the exhibition has been supported by John C. Waddell and the Polaroid Corporation.
- FOCUS** In the mid-seventies Nicholas Nixon (b. 1947) was a leader among young American photographers who revived interest in the large-format camera. His city views from high vantage points were shown at the Museum in 1976. The next year Nixon began photographing people and soon achieved a degree of spontaneity and suppleness that had not previously appeared in large-camera photography. Through the 1980s Nixon has extended this work, embracing the idea that sympathetic photographs of ordinary, unnamed people can address the deepest human value.
- CONTENT** Consisting of approximately 100 8x10-inch black-and-white contact prints, the exhibition is the first to survey Nixon's work of the past decade. It is divided into five principal sections: photographs of groups of people outdoors, often on their own front porches (1977-82); portraits of old people (1983-85); nude studies of Nixon's wife and two small children (1980-88); all fourteen pictures made thus far in Nixon's series of annual portraits of his wife and her three sisters (1975-88); and excerpts from work-in-progress on extended portrait sequences of people with AIDS (since 1987).
- PUBLICATION** Nicholas Nixon: Pictures of People by Peter Galassi. 128 pages. 91 tritone illustrations, with 85 plates in the size of the original photographs, reproducing the photographer's richly detailed contact prints with an unusually high degree of fidelity. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound, \$40.00; paperbound, \$18.95; available in the Museum Store. Clothbound, distributed by New York Graphic Society Books/Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

No. 41

For further information, contact the Department of Public Information,
212/708-9750.