

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1988

FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION WALKER EVANS: AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS
- DATES January 19 - April 11, 1989
- ORGANIZATION Peter Galassi, Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art
- CONTENT On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Walker Evans's landmark book American Photographs, the Museum is publishing a new edition this winter. Now long out of print, this book is widely considered to be one of the most important and influential photography books ever published. Accompanying its publication, an exhibition presents approximately seventy original prints of works in American Photographs from the Museum's collection. Unlike the new publication, which adheres closely to the first edition, the exhibition does not attempt to recreate the 1938 show precisely.
- Evans's work of the thirties brought a radical new spirit to American photography, characterized by candor, economy, and intellectual precision. Perhaps more than any other figure, he defined in his work the essence of the documentary aesthetic, in which the poetic uses of pure fact have been exploited in new and profoundly challenging ways. Presented in stark and prototypical form in American Photographs, Evans's work has made its impact not only on subsequent photography, but on modern literature, film, and the traditional visual arts.
- PUBLICATION Walker Evans. American Photographs. Fiftieth Anniversary Edition. Afterword by Lincoln Kirstein. 208 pages. 87 duotone plates. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound, \$40.00; paperbound, \$18.95; available in the Museum Store. Distributed by New York Graphic Society Books/Little Brown and Company, Boston.

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