Photography Until Now
February 18–May 29, 1990

JOHN SZARKOWSKI

John Szarkowski has been director of the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art since 1962. During this time, the department has presented more than 100 exhibitions at the Museum, as well as many traveling exhibitions. Mr. Szarkowski has also been responsible for the continued development of the Museum’s collection of more than 20,000 photographic prints dating from about 1840 to the present.


Author of Photography Until Now, the publication accompanying the current exhibition, Mr. Szarkowski has published a number of other books, including Winogrand: Figments from the Real World (1988), Irving Penn (1984), The Photographer’s Eye (1966), and the highly acclaimed Looking at Photograph’s: 100 Pictures from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art (1973). He is also coauthor with Maria Morris Hambourg of the four-volume The Work of Atget (1981-85).

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Mr. Szarkowski is the holder of honorary doctorates from the Philadelphia College of Art (1965), the School of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (1978), the Portland School of Art (1980), and Parsons School of Design (1988). He is the recipient of the City of New York Mayor's Award of Honor for Arts and Culture (1979) and the Friends of Photography Award for Distinguished Career in Photography (1988). Mr. Szarkowski has taught at New York University and Harvard University and served as Andrew D. White Professor at Large at Cornell University (1983-89). Along with Peter Galassi, curator in the Department of Photography, he is currently teaching a history of photography seminar at the Museum for Columbia University graduate students.

Before joining the Museum staff, Mr. Szarkowski received two Guggenheim fellowships for his own photography, which he used to produce The Idea of Louis Sullivan (1956) and to photograph the Quetico wilderness area of western Ontario (1961). Supported by a grant from the University of Minnesota Press, he wrote and produced the photographs for The Face of Minnesota (1958).

John Szarkowski was born in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1925 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1948.