

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1994

GESTURE AND POSE: TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION

January 13 - April 5, 1994

An exhibition surveying photography's ability to capture the expressive attitudes of the human body is on view at The Museum of Modern Art from January 13 to April 5, 1994. Organized by Peter Galassi, chief curator, Department of Photography, **GESTURE AND POSE: TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION** is part of an ongoing series of small exhibitions exploring the richness of the Museum's collection.

"Like the expressions of the face," Mr. Galassi writes, "the attitudes of the body are full of meaning. Some of our gestures and poses are contrived for an audience (or a photographer); some are involuntary. In both cases our bodies send messages we might prefer to disguise, as well as those we intend to project: messages about who we think we are, or how we feel, or what we mean."

GESTURE AND POSE includes some sixty works by such major photographers as Diane Arbus, Roy De Carava, Dorothea Lange, Irving Penn, August Sander, and Shomei Tomatsu, as well as by less well-known figures, including Richard Kalvar, Masatoshi Naitoh, and Chandler Weston, among others. Landmark works, such as Henri Cartier-Bresson's *Valencia* (1933) and Paul Strand's *The Family, Luzzara, Italy* (1953), are presented along with less familiar photographs,

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such as Manuel Alvarez Bravo's *René d'Harnoncourt* (1930s) and Steven Milanowski's *Tow Truck Driver at Scene of Fatal Accident* (1982).

Opening with a range of poses adopted explicitly for the camera, the exhibition proceeds to explore in turn such attitudes as introspection, repose, confrontation, affection, and such intense emotions as anguish, ecstasy, and surprise.

As part of a new program of more frequent rotation of works in the collection galleries, especially for contemporary photography, a fresh installation of the gallery devoted to work since 1980 opens on January 13. Organized by Sheryl Conkelton, associate curator, Department of Photography, the new installation includes works by Chuck Close, Patrick Faigenbaum, Adam Fuss, Frank Gohlke, Paul Graham, JoAnn Verburg, and Carrie Mae Weems, among others.

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