

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

FOR WEDNESDAY RELEASE

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EXHIBITION OF 50 PHOTOGRAPHS BY 50 PHOTOGRAPHERS -LANDMARKS IN PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY.

Edward Steichen, Director of the Photography Department at the Museum of Modern Art, has selected 50 prints from the Museum Collections that form an abbreviated history of the development of pictorial photography during the past 100 years. This exhibition will be shown on the first floor of the Museum at 11 West 53 Street from July 28 to August 29, after which it will circulate throughout the country and abroad.

Starting with the earliest British pictorial photographer, D. O. Hill, a portrait painter who has been all but forgotten as a painter and is today recognized as a pioneer of pictorial photography, the exhibition proceeds to Mathew Brady, the American pioneer who is represented by one of his fine Civil War portrait groups. Other outstanding nineteenth-century examples include Margaret Julia Cameron's forceful portrait of Sir John Herschel, Eadweard Muybridge's experiments in the analysis of motion and Alfred Stieglitz' celebrated Winter on Fifth Avenue. The controversial Photo Secession group, led by Stieglitz at the turn of the century, is represented here in prints by Frank Eugene, Gertrude Kasebier, Clarence White and Edward Steichen. Their French contemporary Eugene Atget appears with Street Musicians, Paris, done about 1905.

The first of a whole school of industrial photography, Charles Sheeler's Ford Plant taken in 1927, is shown; and the superb artistry of Paul Strand is demonstrated in his Driftwood, Gaspé, Quebec.

Farm Security Administration photographs of the 1930s, established a new high in documentary photography as represented here in the work of Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans and Russell Lee. The selection also includes work by such masters as Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Gjon Mili, Lisette Model, Harry Callahan, Irving Penn, Andreas Feininger, Todd Webb, Eugene Smith and other outstanding photographers.

Mr. Steichen says of the present showing: "This exhibition is one of several flashbacks which will be interspersed in the continuing series of shows exploring contemporary photography begun in the fall of 1947 with THREE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS. Most of these prints were acquired by the Museum under its first Curator of Photography, Beaumont Newhall, who set up the Department.

"Painting has influenced photography for the past century. Today this influence is a cause of dissatisfaction to many who are more interested in probing the potentialities that are peculiar to the photographic medium. Such conflict in concept and point of view is an invigorating stimulus to our younger photographers."

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