

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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John Szarkowski has been named Director of the Department of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art to succeed Edward Steichen who is resigning July 1, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, President of the Museum, announced today. Mr. Steichen, world-famous photographer and exhibition director, has headed the Department since 1947.

Mr. Szarkowski, who is 36, has been an instructor of photography at the University of Buffalo. He is the author of The Idea of Louis Sullivan (1956), published by the University of Chicago, and The Face of Minnesota (1958), published by the University of Minnesota. He is currently photographing the Quetico Superior wilderness of Wisconsin on a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The Museum of Modern Art first exhibited photographs in 1932, establishing the Department of Photography 8 years later with Beaumont Newhall as Curator. The Department now has a collection of 6000 prints, from 1839 to the present, by more than 1000 photographers from all parts of the world. A major project of the new Director will be to implement plans for the Edward Steichen Photography Center to be incorporated in the new wing of the Museum at the conclusion of the current 30th Anniversary Fund Raising Drive. Galleries for permanent and temporary exhibitions will be included in the projected center, as well as enlarged viewing and archive space for ready accessibility of the collection. The center will also contain a specialized library, conference facilities, and a laboratory. \$600,000 of the total goal of \$25,000,000 has been earmarked for these photographic activities, which will also benefit from expanded facilities in other departments, such as publications and traveling shows.

Speaking of his plans for Museum exhibitions, Mr. Szarkowski says that "initiative belongs to the artist, not the museum. The future photography program of the Museum of Modern Art is as unpredictable as the outcome of the searches and experiments of a thousand serious photographers. The Museum will try to remain alertly responsive to these searches, and to seek out and publish that work which makes a relevant human statement with the intensity that identifies a work of art."

Before joining the staff, Edward Steichen directed two exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Road to Victory (1942) and Power in the Pacific (1944). Since 1947 he has organized and directed 37 exhibitions, among them In and Out of Focus (1948), The Exact Instant (1949), the Diogenes with a Camera series (from 1952), Post-War European Photography (1955), Steichen the Photographer, the retrospective of his own work (1961), and the current Photographs by Harry Callahan and Robert Frank. His greatest achievement is The Family of Man, which, since its 1955 opening at the Museum, has been seen by 7,000,000 people in 37 countries. It is still being circulated abroad.

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.