

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS IN THE "NEW" MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Photography will be given new prominence in the program of The Museum of Modern Art when the enlarged and remodeled galleries open on May 16. In addition to a series of temporary loan exhibitions on the ground floor, of which The Photographer's Eye opening in May will be the first, the Department of Photography will now have its own permanent exhibition area in the new Edward Steichen Photography Center located on the third and fourth floors of a new wing.

Although The Museum of Modern Art led other institutions in establishing a Department of Photography, this will be the first time the unique Photography Collection of about 7,000 prints from 1839 to the present will have its own gallery. In the new Center, named in honor of the famous photographer who was Director of the Department from 1947 until 1962, about 200 prints will always be on view.

The Center will also house a study room where the remainder of the Collection will be accessible to interested students, as will be the Department's extensive library of books, periodicals and archive material. The public galleries of the Center will be on the third floor and will be connected with the study areas on the fourth floor by an interior stair.

The inaugural Collection show in the Center, to be selected by Grace Mayer, Curator, will provide an introduction to the accomplishments of photography as seen in the works of such masters as Cameron, Emerson, Brady, Stieglitz, Atget, Steichen, Weston, Strand, Cartier-Bresson and Smith. The exhibitions in these new galleries will be changed periodically.

This new space for photography means that the Museum will always have a photography exhibition on view in addition to approximately four temporary loan shows presented periodically throughout each year. Works from the Collection shown in the new Steichen Center will provide an esthetic and historical frame of reference for a more varied and flexible schedule of changing exhibitions.

The first of the new series of temporary exhibitions, The Photographer's Eye, will open simultaneously in May on the ground floor of the Museum. John Szarkowski, the Department's Director, has selected about 200 pictures which epitomize the visual and pictorial concepts which are peculiar to the photographic medium. These concepts range from the way photographers make use of significant detail and the picture edge, to explorations of time and motion. The photographs in this exhibition have been borrowed from public and private collections here and abroad and will include work by famous men and women as well as some of their unknown contemporaries. Pictures in the show will range in date from the 1840's to the present.

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Future temporary loan shows planned by the Department include one-man exhibitions by Andre Kertesz and Dorothea Lange and a survey of the photo essay.

Publishing activities in the field of photography will also be expanded in the "new" Museum. An enlarged and revised edition of "The History of Photography" by Beaumont Newhall, first head of the Museum's Department and now Director of the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York, will be issued in the summer of 1964. A series of monographs on major photographers of recent years will also be published in the coming seasons.

The Museum of Modern Art began exhibiting photographs in 1932, three years after the Museum was founded; the Department was established in 1940. More than 75 temporary shows have been presented in the Museum galleries while dozens have been sent to other museums and educational institutions here and abroad. Nineteen books on photography have been published.

The Photography Collection in which the achievements of over 1,000 photographers from more than 68 countries are represented is unique in the world. However, until now, this material, which is constantly being expanded by gift or purchase, has been in inaccessible storage.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, The Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, New York. CI 5-8900.