

Advance Information on CARTIER-BRESSON: SINCE THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Director: John Szarkowski, Director, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art.

Showings: 1) June 25 - Sept. 2, 1968: THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK
2) Oct. 16 - Dec., 1968: Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Mass.
3) Jan. 15 - Feb., 1969: The San Francisco Museum of Art

Contents: The title of the exhibition is derived from The Decisive Moment: Photography by Henri Cartier-Bresson, a collection of photographs with a text by Cartier-Bresson published by Verve and Simon and Schuster in 1952.

A report on the continuing development of the art of one of the 20th-century masters of photography. The exhibition emphasizes the work of the past decade, with special attention to Cartier-Bresson's recent work in portraiture.

About 150 photographs, all drawn from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art.

The main body of the exhibition is devoted to work since 1952, especially the past decade.

Introductory gallery of about 30 early works (1929 - c. 1945), includes pictures not previously exhibited in this country.

Background: Henri Cartier-Bresson's work was first shown at The Museum of Modern Art in 1947. That exhibition and accompanying monograph by Lincoln Kirstein and Beaumont Newhall presented to a broad public the radically new concept of expressive photography that Cartier-Bresson had developed in his work of the 1930's. Discarding accepted standards of technical and pictorial excellence, Cartier-Bresson discovered a new formal order that had been hidden within the flux of movement and change. His subjects were ordinary and seldom newsworthy, but the images themselves were startling: they revealed the visual structures that exist in the empty spaces between moments.

After World War II, Cartier-Bresson's work reflected his increased involvement with the challenges of photojournalism. The pictures of these years tend to be more specific and more topical in their content.

In recent years, however, it would seem that Cartier-Bresson has returned from journalism to poetry -- from the world of events to the world of ordinary life. Pictures made in this spirit are not likely to be seen in the newspapers, for they will be as meaningful tomorrow as they are today.

Photographs and additional information now available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.