

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 82
FOR RELEASE:
SEPTEMBER 21, 1973

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EDWARD WESTON RETROSPECTIVE

The first major retrospective of Edward Weston since his death in 1958 will be presented by The Museum of Modern Art in the winter of 1975, John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, announced today.

Mr. Szarkowski has invited Willard Van Dyke, well-known photographer, filmmaker and critic and close colleague of Weston for more than 30 years, to direct the exhibition. Mr. Van Dyke is Director of the Museum's Department of Film.

Weston, a master of 20th-century photography, was born in 1886 and became a professional photographer when he was in his early 20s. He opened his first studio in California in 1911. The retrospective will explore the evolution of his vision and study his contribution to the visual art of this century over five decades of a distinguished career.

Weston moved to Mexico in 1923 where he opened a portrait studio with Tina Modotti. He returned to California in 1929 and three years later, with Willard Van Dyke, formed the influential "Group f64." This alliance of west coast photographers, including Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham, was dedicated to the deep focus, unvarnished technique exemplified in Weston's photographs. In 1948 Van Dyke, who had already photographed or directed a score of important documentary films, made The Photographer, now considered the classic film study of Weston's life and work.

Weston was given a one-man show at The Museum of Modern Art in 1946 and shortly afterwards was stricken with Parkinson's disease. In 1952 he supervised the production of 50th Anniversary Portfolio with the aid of his son Brett, also a well-known photographer. During this time his work was shown in Paris and London as well as in this country. Weston died in Carmel, California, in 1958.

Many of the photographs in the exhibition are from the Museum's own extensive collection of Weston's work. Others will be borrowed from private and public collections.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.
