

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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* PRESS PREVIEW: *
* Wednesday, January 7 *
* 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *
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FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION:** AMERICAN CHILDREN
- DATES:** The Museum of Modern Art, New York
January 8, 1981 -- March 29, 1981
- SPONSOR:** Springs Mills, Inc.
The exhibition is part of the Springs Mills Series on the Art of Photography
- DIRECTOR:** Susan Kismaric, Associate Curator of the Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art
- CONTENTS:** This exhibition of 60 photographs from the Museum's Collection surveys the changing concept of childhood in America from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.
- Of the work to be exhibited, an ambrotype from 1860, typical of its period, shows a child as the embodiment of Victorian ideals held by her parents. Documentary photographs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries expose the effects of technology and industrialization on child laborers. At the same time the Photo-Secessionists made artistic works of timeless, symbolic meaning by uniting the innocence of children with the innocence of nature to create a romanticized vision of childhood. Photographs from the Depression through the 1960s describe the altering face of the child in America, and the changing attitude towards childhood itself.
- Among the photographers to be represented in AMERICAN CHILDREN are Lee Friedlander, Diane Arbus, Nicholas Nixon, Robert Frank, Walker Evans, Doris Ulmann, Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine.
- PUBLICATION:** A catalog, underwritten by Springs Mills, Inc., will accompany the exhibition. It will include the 60 photographs from AMERICAN CHILDREN and an introduction by Susan Kismaric. The book is being published by The Museum of Modern Art and is being distributed in cloth and paper by the New York Graphic Society. \$14.95 clothbound. \$7.95 paperbound.

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.
