

Photography Until Now

February 18—May 29, 1990

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PUBLISHES A NEW HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Until Now is a new history of photography published to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the medium. Like the exhibition it accompanies, this major publication offers a basic reinterpretation of the evolution of photographic tradition. Photography Until Now was written by John Szarkowski, director of the Museum's Department of Photography for more than twenty-five years and organizer of the exhibition. It is the Museum's first chronicle of the field since Beaumont Newhall's classic The History of Photography, first published in 1937 and now in its fifth edition.

The exhibition and its accompanying publication are supported by a generous grant from Springs Industries, Inc., and are part of the Springs of Achievement Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art.

In his text, Mr. Szarkowski surveys the development of photography from its prehistory through its contemporary uses, focusing on the reciprocal relationship of pictorial form and photographic technology. The book is organized into seven chapters: "Before Photography" traces the artistic and technical developments that prepared the way for photography's invention; "The Inventors" describes the methods by which light first fixed an image; "The Daguerreotype and the Calotype" contrasts the potentials of the two dominant systems of early photography; "Paper versus Glass" traces the rise of the

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wet-plate system and the professional photographer; "George Eastman and Alfred Stieglitz" describes how the development of the hand-held camera democratized photography and created distinctions between amateur and "fine art" photographers; "Photographs in Ink" explains how the invention of the halftone block made the typical photographer part of a complex system of group publishing; and "After the Magazines" examines how the ascendance of television and the influence of art education and the gallery system have shaped contemporary photography.

The 344-page publication is richly illustrated throughout with 161 tritone and 17 four-color plates and more than 100 duotone reference illustrations. An extensive note section, a checklist of illustrations, and an index complete the volume. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Photography Until Now is \$60.00 clothbound and \$29.95 paperbound. The clothbound edition is distributed by Bulfinch Press/Little, Brown and Company, Boston; both versions are available in The MoMA Book Store.

The exhibition PHOTOGRAPHY UNTIL NOW is on view at The Museum of Modern Art through May 29, 1990.

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For further information, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.