

## The Museum of Modern Art

To Photography Editors and Critics

From Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information (956 - 7501)

Date July 24, 1973

Re Photography: Recent Acquisitions

A selection of 48 works acquired since 1970 for the Photography Collection of The Museum of Modern Art is on view now through October 7 in the Steichen Galleries. Twenty-four photographers are represented in the installation, which includes pictures dating from the 19th century to 1973.

The photographs in the exhibition range from William Henry Jackson's "The Upper Twin Lake, Colorado," a serene 1875 landscape, to Robert Adams' "Colorado Springs," a 1970 photograph of a crowded housing development; from Francis Frith's 19th century studies of ancient architectural monuments (the Acropolis and the Great Pyramid and Sphynx) to Lewis Baltz' "The Tract Houses" (1971); from George Platt Lynes' carefully staged portraits of Auden, Tanguy and Cocteau to straightforward photographs of three elaborately garbed Philadelphia Mummers by John Schott; and from the 1920s abstractions of Florence Henri to the blown-up snapshot-like pictures of Bill Arnold. The exhibition was selected by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography.

The new installation is a selection from several hundred photographs acquired since 1970. The Department of Photography considers for acquisition contemporary work that it believes to contribute to the continuing evolution of the medium, as well as older work of accepted historical importance. The collection, which ranges from the 1840s to the present, now includes approximately 14,000 prints, and is augmented by purchases and gifts.

A checklist of the exhibition is enclosed.