

The Museum of Modern Art

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FRANK GOHLKE PHOTOS ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

"Photographers from the midcontinent photograph grain elevators for two reasons--because they are beautiful, and because they are important," notes John Szarkowski, director of the exhibition GRAIN ELEVATORS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK GOHLKE. On view in the third-floor Steichen Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art from November 6 through February 4, this exhibition of approximately forty black-and-white prints is the second in the Springs Mills Series on American Photography.

After observing that "grain elevators are a pleasure to photograph for the same reasons that gravestones are: both are simple, geometric, monochrome forms, rationally arranged in the landscape," Mr. Szarkowski traces the development of Gohlke's work: "Frank Gohlke's grain elevator series was begun in 1972. His pictures from that year deal with the subject in almost purely formal terms, and show geometrical fragments of the structures in a shallow, abstract space. By 1973 he has moved back from the elevators, to show the air that surrounds them, and the land that they stand on; the quality of the light describes not only architectural form, but the hour and quality of the day. In the following years the definition of the subject becomes increasingly complex, and geographic and cultural issues assume more important roles in the content of the work. . . . In Gohlke's later pictures of this series, works of engineering approach the status of works of nature, and become like a cowpath on the hillside, part of the landscape itself."

Frank Gohlke was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1942. He received his B.A. from the University of Texas in 1964 and his M.A. (in English literature) from Yale in 1966. At Yale he met Walker Evans, and became seriously committed to photography. During 1967 and '68 he studied independently with Paul Caponigro. In 1975 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in photography.

GRAIN ELEVATORS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK GOHLKE is sponsored by The National Endowment for the Arts and Springs Mills. The exhibition will later travel to other American museums.

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For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director of Public Information (212)956-2648, or Bruce Wolmer, (212)956-7298, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Photographs available on request.
