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The Phoenix art community gathered on Friday, January 29, 2010 to attend a special opening reception for the Ansel Adams: Discoveries exhibit, on display from January 31–June 6, 2010 in the Steele Gallery at the Phoenix Art Museum. This special reception for Circles members and members of InFocus, the photography support arm of the Museum, was attended by several hundred patrons of photography.

After a cocktail reception, attendees perused the expansive exhibit, consisting over over 140 images, including prints, negatives, equipment, documents and video installations. In addition, Dr. Rebecca Senf, PhD., and curator of the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, attended a special dinner in celebration of Ansel Adams.

Ansel Adams: Discoveries

Ansel Adams will offer new insights into the photographer's greatest works, by bringing the vast holdings of the Center for Creative Photography's Ansel Adams Archive to light. The exhibition – featuring 120 photographs and dozens of archival documents including video footage, original correspondence, photographic equipment, proof prints, alternate views, negatives, and portraits of the photographer – allows for a richer understanding of Adams's beloved photographs.

The exhibition is organized around six aspects of Adams's career.

A Time: Early Work

His early work includes intimate-scaled Pictorialist prints made very early in Adams's photographic practice, including works from his first portfolio, *Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras* (1927). A key piece in the Center's Adams archive is his very first photo album (1916) made following his first visit to Yosemite, on family vacation. This album will be presented in a digitized version that allows visitors to see it in its entirety. A range of *Monolith: The Face of Half Dome* (1927) prints, on a variety of papers, will demonstrate how the choice of materials impact the appearance of an iconic image.

A Place: American Southwest

His work in the American Southwest, visitors will see photographs made throughout Adams's long career, including pictures of New Mexican Indians from the late 1920s, Canyon de Chelly, 1941, San Xavier del Bac, 1951, Aspens, New Mexico, 1958, and a number of views of the Grand Canyon. Adams's masterpiece *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, 1941 will be presented along with the negative, Adams's printing notes, his dodging tools, and an alternate print that demonstrates the dramatic range of interpretations the photographer applied

InFocus
Phoenix Art Museum
1625 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1685

Phoenix Art Museum membership is a prerequisite for membership in InFocus. Please call (602) 257-2124 or go online at phxart.org for information on becoming a member of Phoenix Art Museum.

Graphic Design and Photography
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Photography fans enjoy a sumptuous cocktail hour before viewing the exhibit. Photo: Richard M. Coda

to this famous work. Visitors will also be able to see an original Timothy O'Sullivan photograph of the Canyon de Chelly's White House Ruins that inspired Adams to rephotograph the site in 1941.

A Medium: Color

An examination of Adams's color practice will feature a range of images originally made as color film transparencies. Many of these works, initially made for commercial assignments, appeared only as color reproductions. Now, with new digital printing techniques, it is possible to present color prints that replicate the vibrancy and luminosity of Adams's original transparencies. This section will address what color meant in Adams's career, show examples of his color photography, and demonstrate the dramatic changes in color printing technology, contrasting Adams's original transparencies, color prints made by the artist, and new prints made under the supervision of the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. A special focus on Adams's work for Arizona Highways will be presented.

A Theme: Environment

Adams's lifelong concern for the environment will be explored through his work in the National Parks. Many of Adams's most dramatic, awe-inspiring views of the wilderness landscape were made as part of an extended project to photograph America's national parks, from Alaska's Mount Denali to the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. Adams's desire to share these photographs with a wide audience meant that he presented the works in a range of ways, including a portfolio and a book, both of which will be on view. Throughout his career, Adams offered an affordable series of original prints in Yosemite

Valley, called Special Edition Prints, examples of which can also be seen in the exhibition.

Adams's body of work is richly populated with architectural views, from early works made on commission to personal studies of ghost towns. These images, that combine the landscape Adams is known for, with the built environment, allow us to explore an unexpected theme. In the 1940s, Adams photographed Alfred Stieglitz and his New York City gallery, An American Place, with the thought of publishing the works as a book. This group will be presented together along with Adams's writings about his ideas for the project.

A Role: Teaching

Adams's work as a teacher included publishing instructional manuals – the first, *Making a Photograph*, in 1935 – as well as a long-standing series of workshops, which began in 1940. Adams also taught at the San Francisco Art Institute and helped codify a method for negative and print exposure, called the Zone System, which is still taught today. Course descriptions, film footage, and photographs of the participants help suggest the experience of Adams's workshops, while examples of several of Adams's how-to books demonstrate his dedication to sharing his knowledge of the medium.

The exhibition is organized by the Center for Creative Photography and Phoenix Art Museum.

Support provided by American Express, BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona, UMB Bank Arizona, John C. Lincoln Health Network, J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation, Margaret T. Morris Foundation, Robert and Joan Cremin, Robin and Ric Donnelley, Joanie and Rick Fox, and the Museum's Connoisseurs Circle, In Focus, and Men's Arts Council.

Promotional support provided by CBS Outdoor, Phoenix New Times, Clear Channel Radio, Barnes and Noble, Latino Perspectives, and 944 Magazine.



InFocus members Larry Golsh, Randy Efros, Judy Zuber and Juan Garcia. Photo: Richard M. Coda

Upcoming Events...

The 10 Most Exciting Photographers I Learned about in the Last Year

February 10, 7pm

Come behind the scenes and gain curatorial access with Norton Family Assistant Curator of Photography Rebecca Senf, Ph.D., as she shares the work of 10 photographers she has been introduced to in the last year. Special opportunities to meet new faces in the field, such as jurying portfolio reviews and meeting artists who visit the Museum and Center for Creative Photography, has allowed her to make unique discoveries. Dr. Senf presents emerging photographers as well as new work produced by established artists, from color to black-and-white, and from film-based to digital production.

Presented by the Museum's Contemporary Forum and the Museum's In Focus

Oeuvre the River and through the Woods

February 17, 6pm

Along with his definitive body of landscape images, Ansel Adams also developed a rich philosophy about photography. Look at some of the Library's collection of Adams's images, and consider some of his best quotes to see if they are tools to "see" both the forest and the trees!

Just What Is a "Creative Photograph," Anyway?

March 3, 7pm

Ansel Adams is considered a fine art photographer, whose work is celebrated by museums, coveted by collectors and prized in the marketplace. In some ways, photography is the most accessible art medium - as we all use cameras - but its relationship to technology may also make it confusing. Norton Family Assistant Curator of Photography Rebecca Senf, Ph.D., answers questions such as, "What is an 'original' or 'creative' photograph?," "What happens in the darkroom?" and "What is the difference between one print and the next?" with hands-on and illustrative materials.

Ansel Adams: In Focus

March 17, 7pm

Alan Ross, artist, educator and master printer, has earned an international reputation as a specialist in the art of black-and-white photography. As Ansel Adams' photographic assistant from 1974 to 1979, Ross was integrally involved with Adams' books, teaching in Yosemite and production of fine prints.

Ross presents a personal view of the master, from his professional and obscure personal work to his passion for people.

Exposing Time: A Photographer Documents a Changing World

April 21, 7pm

Environmental photojournalist Gary Braasch shows how time exposures, repeat and sequential images can evoke the motion and change of the world. He focuses on his work documenting natural history and climate change for international magazines, exhibits and books.

Sponsored by the Museum's In Focus

INFOCUS Members Only

Please join us on Saturday, February 27, 2010 for a day trip to the internationally renowned Center for Creative Photography. We'll tour the archives and enjoy an exclusive guided tour through the Center's acclaimed exhibition, New Topographics with our curator, Dr. Rebecca Senf.

This special trip to the Center will include lunch at Cafe a la C'Art in El Presidio and a tour of the Etherton Gallery with owner Terry Etherton. We will meet several artists and view Poetics of Light, an exhibition of photographs by James Hajicek, Carol Panaro-Smith, Kate Breakey and Masao Yamamoto.

Cost is \$45.00 per person and the trip is limited to 40 members, first come, first served. To sign up, please download the form and waiver, sign them and send your check to Karen Hodges, c/o INFOCUS, Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, 85004. For questions, please call 602-307-2079. Please don't forget: You must sign a waiver and return it with your check. Your check is your reservation. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Thank you.

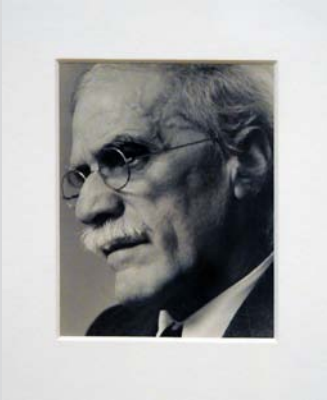
The bus leaves the Phoenix Art Museum at 8:30 a.m. sharp and returns to Phoenix at 5:00 p.m.

*Please note that the Etherton Gallery is on the second floor and there is no elevator available.

Recent Events...

Face to Face: 150 Years of Photographic Portraiture at the Phoenix Art Museum

Last September the public was invited to a lecture given by Dr. Rebecca Senf, PhD, curator of the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson. The lecture was hosted by InFocus.



Snell & Wilmer: Photography Collection Tour

On November 23, 2009, members of InFocus were treated to a private viewing of the Snell & Wilmer photography collection, hosted at their office in downtown Phoenix. Edward "Bud" Jacobson began collecting photographs on the law firm's behalf in the mid-1980s. Arizona photographers form the core of the collection in the Phoenix offices, including significant works by Jack Dykinga, Bill Jay, Mark Klett, Craig Smith, Todd Walker and many others. Photographs by Imogen Cunningham, Eliot Porter, and the German photographer Karl Blossfeldt will also be on view. A small reception followed.



Dear INFOCUS members:

On March 2, 2009, twelve photography enthusiasts met for the first time to discuss the idea of creating a new support group for the Phoenix Art Museum. Since then, a Board has been formed, the Phoenix Art Museum Board of Trustees has approved the group, and INFOCUS is up and running. The broad goals of INFOCUS include supporting our curator, Becky Senf, Phd., and increasing awareness of the Norton Gallery photography exhibitions while offering INFOCUS the best opportunities to see and learn about all kinds of photography and photographers. The response has been wonderful.

In a few short months that INFOCUS has been in existence, we have already put your membership dues along with some donations to good use. For example, INFOCUS has helped to pay for the design of two gallery guides for Norton Gallery exhibitions and we are a significant sponsor of the upcoming exhibition, Ansel Adams: Discoveries scheduled to open in the Museum's Steele Gallery this coming week.

INFOCUS has already established a track record of visiting private collections, offering insightful lectures and hosting lively opening receptions for our members. We are also pleased to announce our first trip. On February 27th, a day-long behind the scenes tour of the Center for Creative Photography will be offered exclusively to INFOCUS members. (Please watch your email for more information - coming soon!)

Now that INFOCUS is on its way, the Board is seeking your help. Send me an email or call me at 480-948-5801 if you are willing to serve on a committee or are interested in sitting on the Board as INFOCUS continues to create great programs and plans its first fundraiser.

Any help at this critical time in our growth would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Sincerely,

Judy Zuber