

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO 3, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Photographs by a young Chicagoan, Joseph Jachna, will be on display in The Art Institute of Chicago through Sunday, July 30, 1961. This is the first major exhibition of Jachna's work.

Thirty-six of the sixty-nine prints on exhibit come from an extensive project concerned with the photographic interpretation of water. The project earned Jachna a Master's degree in Photography from the School of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology.

An undefined attraction for water, the mysterious element which has tantalized poets and painters, began in Jachna's childhood, but his first real opportunity to approach water with a camera came during a photo-journalism workshop sponsored by the University of Missouri in 1957. Jachna "tried to show the town of Hannibal through water, the Mississippi River, its many streams . . . even its town pump . . ." but the result was complete dissatisfaction for the young photographer, and he resolved to make water the subject of a Master's thesis.

A day book, carefully kept for many years, notes not only his constant experiments, shifting of cameras, and ever-changing techniques, but his feelings and philosophical ponderings as he confronted rivers, waterfalls, lakes, oceans, even wet pavements, in all seasons, lights and moods. His consuming desire was to capture the many faceted, elusive personality of water, its dimensions beneath the surface, its ability to reflect and transmit images simultaneously.

"Jachna's prints express deep introspection, a poetic sensibility for the significance of small objects and flashes of vision realized with an admirable command of the photographic medium," Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography, states in an introduction to the Exhibition.

(more)

Jachna lives on Chicago's far South Side, where he was born in 1935. He majored in radio electronics and studied electricity, woodworking and welding in Catholic Parochial High School and Chicago Vocational High School. His hobby of photography began when he graduated from elementary school and received a Kodak ABC photo-lab outfit, "for which I had to work and pay for half if I really wanted it." A part-time job in Derwin Photographic Studios became step two in Jachna's career. Step three came from a job as newsboy during high school years. He won a Newspaper Distributors' Association Scholarship which allowed him to enroll in The Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology.

A brief statement of Jachna's aims in photography, and a selection of his photographs, will appear in a coming issue of Minor White's periodical Aperture.

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The Art Institute of Chicago is open FREE at all times.
Gallery of Photography Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily;
Sundays, Noon to 5:00 PM; Thursday evenings till 9:30 PM.