

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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

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Photographs by Robert Frank, considered by Edward Steichen to be one of America's three best photographers, will be on display in the Gallery of Photography, The Art Institute of Chicago, Friday, April 28 through Sunday, June 11, 1961.

Thirty-six year old Robert Frank, born in Zurich, Switzerland, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1955 and, for two years, drove around the United States in a used car recording his impressions. His camera record of the trip was later published in France in a volume titled "Les Américains." Jack Kerouac subsequently wrote an introduction to the English edition. He says of Robert Frank: "With that little camera that he raises and snaps with one hand he sucked a sad poem right out of America onto film, taking rank among the tragic poets of the world."

Frank's pictures have the serious qualities of a social document yet do not editorialize. They are grim with flashes of humor. They are people wearing everyday clothes and everyday expressionless masks, unaware that Frank's camera has caught their loneliness, bewilderment, frustration, smugness or human-kindness. But Frank's "shots" are not candid. They are "instantaneous." He does not plan or compose his pictures in advance; he simply has the power to see in a flash the total individual in a total symbolic scene.

"I have frequently been accused of deliberately twisting subject matter to my point of view," he says. "I know that life for a photographer cannot be a matter of indifference. Opinions often consist of a kind of

more...

Photographs by
Robert Frank (contd.)

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criticism, but criticism can come out of love. It is important to see what is invisible to others...perhaps the look of hope or the look of sadness. Also it is always the instantaneous reaction to oneself that produces a photo...I do not anticipate that the onlooker will share my viewpoint...However, I feel that if my photo leaves an image on his mind, something has been accomplished."

Robert Frank has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art and in the Tibor de Nagy Galleries in New York City. His works have been published in Camera (International); Neuf (Paris); U.S. Camera Annual; Life; Du (Switzerland); Leica Photography (N.Y.). Frank also photographed two films one of which, "Pull my Daisy," included Jack Kerouac as narrator and in which poets Allen Ginsberg and Gregory Corso, and painters Alfred Leslie and Larry Rivers appear.