

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:
Margot Schutt, CE 6-7080

Photographs by Robert Earl Wilson are on view at The Art Institute of Chicago through August 26, 1962. This exhibition, the first large showing of his work, includes both black and white and color photographs.

The exhibition begins with a sequence of photographs taken in Chicago's Jackson Park during the four seasons of the year, and is followed by a longer series of people and scenes from all parts of the city. The Jackson Park photographs move from winter through spring and summer to autumn and back to winter again to close a modern pastoral cycle. A number of Wilson's photographs of Chicago and its people were published in the October 1961 issue of WFMT PERSPECTIVE.

Wilson, who has been living and working in Chicago for the past three years, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1936. His father's profession as a jazz musician moved the family about from Pennsylvania to New Jersey to New York City, where he says, "I really began to see as I see today." At fourteen he was given a camera, which he quickly learned to use, working often with the most rudimentary materials.

Entirely self-taught, he was originally inspired by the work of Edward Weston, and now acknowledges that he is striving for the dynamic simplicity of Japanese art. Wilson uses his camera to record and express direct truths, refusing to rely on sociological or symbolic suggestion to do his work for him. His photographs are open-ended statements which encourage an active participation from the viewer. Through his work runs an autobiographical statement -- one man's vision of the complex and contradictory world in which he lives.