

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
Martha Bennett King, CE 6-7080
Margot Schutt

Photographs in black and white by Dave Heath will be on display at The Art Institute of Chicago through August 18, 1963.

Sixty-four photographs complemented by quotations from Yeats, Rilke, Matthew Arnold, Stephen Crane and James Baldwin make up Heath's "A Dialogue with Solitude". The photographs are to be viewed in sequence, and begin with a group of portraits which set his theme - the solitude of the individual. Photographs of lovers pursue the theme: not even this relationship can alter the essential loneliness of the soul.

War photographs, taken when Heath was a combat infantryman in Korea, show the frustration, hardship and ennui of Army life. A group of Negro portraits, and another group exploring the bewilderments of youth, suggest further aspects of the alienation of the individual from society.

There are no tricks of photography in Dave Heath's work. His photographs are moments abstracted from life - tragic, comic, and lyrical. The common denominator is always a common humanity. "A Dialogue with Solitude" follows a subtle progression from weariness and despair, hostility and anxiety to anger, agony, and in the last few photographs, to the joy and jubilation of shared experience. It is an acceptance of life, including its evils and miseries.

Dave Heath decided to become a photographer in 1947, just before his 16th birthday, when he saw Ralph Crane's essay "A Bad Boy's Story" in Life Magazine. "In Mr. Crane's unique visual interpretation," he says, "I found portrayed conditions similar to my own life: broken home, foster families, social withdrawal, and life in an orphanage in which I was then living. In that moment of

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Dave Heath -2

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Heath's first job in photography was drugstore photo-finishing. Once he had earned enough for a good camera, he began to do serious work, collecting material for three early photographic books.

After the Korean truce, Heath attended the Philadelphia Museum College of Art, but moved after a year to Chicago where he worked as an assistant in one of the larger studios. Since 1957 he has lived in New York, working in fashion and advertising photography, and continuing his own work in his spare time.

Dave Heath has had one-man exhibitions at the 7 Arts Gallery and the Image Gallery in New York, and at the Museum of Modern Art, where a number of his prints are in the Permanent Collection. His work has been published in Color Photography, Photography Annual 1963, Modern Photography, Infinity, The New York Times Magazine and Contact. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship this year.

"A Dialogue with Solitude" is to be published this fall.

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