

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

Photographs in black and white by Frederick Sommer are now on exhibit at The Art Institute of Chicago in its new permanent Gallery of Photography I, on the ground floor of the museum. The exhibition will be on display through April 7, 1963.

These forty photographs, nearly all made within the past four years, show clearly Frederick Sommer's originality and skill. Mr. Sommer, who came to photography through architecture, finds it the most difficult artistic discipline. "Photography is a visual algebra," he has said; "a symbolic manipulation, not the use of symbols for themselves." Mr. Sommer's treatment suggests abstractions in natural shapes, and conversely, finds organic forms in compositions made of smoke or paint on cellophane.

These direct enlargements of what might be called cellophane paintings, are perhaps the most challenging group of photographs in the present exhibition. Another series of abstractions are made from razor-cut paper.

"Reality is greater than our dreams, yet it is within ourselves that we find the clues to reality."* With an artist's vision, Sommer turns tapestry, sculpture, the human figure and montage compositions into that subjective reality which is the basis of art.

Born in Italy in 1905 of a German father and Swiss mother, Frederick Sommer spent much of his early life in Rio de Janeiro. After earning a Masters Degree in landscape architecture from Cornell, he returned to Brazil to practice. Several years in Europe were followed by a move to Arizona where Mr. Sommer still lives. Frederick Sommer has participated in the Aspen, Colorado, Conference on Photography, and has taught photography at the Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago.

*From Aperture 10:4, "Frederick Sommer 1939-1962 photographs"