

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60603, U. S. A.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOMAS EAKINS: HIS PHOTOGRAPHS WORKS, an exhibition of 200 photographs, is now on view at The Art Institute of Chicago in Galleries 108 and 109, and will continue through August 9. These photographs were first assembled by Gordon Hendricks, an expert on Eakins' photographs and also the author of the exhibition catalogue, and shown at The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in January of this year. The exhibition reveals that Eakins' paintings have close affinity with photography.

Included in the exhibition are photographs of the artist, his family, a series of his wife, his students and friends, among them Walt Whitman, Samuel Murray and Abigail Van Buren. Frequently called America's greatest painter, Eakins conducted many scientific investigations in anatomy, mathematics and photography. He used photography for both his scientific investigations and as a pure art form, as can be seen in his studies of animal locomotion and his pictures of the quiet, realistic world in which he lived. For his photographs, Eakins used a 4"x 5" American Optical Company camera, which was his only instrument until 1904.

The exhibition was installed by Hugh Edwards, the Institute's Curator of Photography. In commenting on the exhibition, Mr. Edwards said: "For Eakins, photography was a means to an end towards which he was impelled by motives and aspirations far deeper than technical precision and attempts at perfection. The material brought to light by Mr. Hendricks reveals Eakins as more than an artist who used the camera merely for studies for his other work. As a photographer he has his important place, just as he has as a painter."