

# *News Release* FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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

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MARTHA BENNETT KING, CE 6-7080  
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Original photographs by the late EDWARD WESTON, chosen by this world famous American photographer as the finest work of his lifetime, will be on exhibit in The Art Institute of Chicago from Friday, April 8 through Sunday, May 8, 1960.

During the last year of his illness, Weston selected some 800 favorite negatives from which his son and co-worker, Brett, made prints. A further selection of 204 negatives from the 800 was made for Mr. Max McGraw. In December, 1959, this collection of photographic masterpieces was presented to The Art Institute by Mr. McGraw. About 60 of these will be shown in the present exhibition.

More than seventy different one-man shows of Weston's photographs were organized between 1921 and 1945. They swept across the world from Berlin to Shanghai, from Mexico to Vancouver, "by request", without benefit of agent or sponsoring institution. Even before 1921, the young photographer, born in Highland Park, Illinois, had received showers of prizes, awards, honorary memberships in organizations and invitations to every kind of salon.

Weston's style and approach to his work changed many times during his lifetime. His search for new horizons was never-ending.

His first camera was a "Bullseye," given him by his Father at age sixteen. His first success was "shooting" chickens. He went on to babies and high-

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style, dramatically lighted portraits of adults. Suddenly dissatisfied, he went to Mexico where he spent three years of self-scrutiny and searching for the secrets of natural light and massive forms.

Returning to his home in California, he began a period of close-ups, scrutinizing the amazing forms and designs of rocks, shells, fruits and vegetables. From close-ups, he moved to the long view of landscapes. In 1937, he became the first photographer to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship, and set out to travel 35,000 miles through Western mountains and plains of the United States, recording its heart and its face on film. "I am a prolific, mass production, omniverous seeker," he wrote.

Commissioned to illustrate Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" in 1941, Weston began to create, not illustrations, but a counterpart to Whitman's vision.

He was age sixty when he turned to color photography. An incurable illness was at work when he set out to photograph, for the last time, the fantastically twisted pines of Point Lobos in Monterey, California. He died on New Year's Day, 1958. He will remain one of the world's masters of photography.