

RODNEY GALARNEAU, THOMAS KNUDTSON, DAVID ROWINSKI,
JOSEPH STERLING

Four Young Photographers Working in the Chicago Area

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Gallery of Photography

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Photography practiced as an independent medium has found its strongest advocates in America. The noble example of Alfred Stieglitz has awakened photographers and an increasing public to the acceptance of the camera as an instrument of expression which is capable both of factual exactitude and the nuances of sensitivity. Today the evangelism and teaching of Ansel Adams on the west coast, Minor White in Rochester, New York, Harry Callahan and Aaron Siskind in Chicago have brought us three distinct groups representing a new generation of photographers, independent of the commonplaces and naivetés of the hobbyist, the sterile brilliance of professionalism or the unrelieved factualism of the photo-journalist and scientist. Each of these groups has its identification and characteristics, but almost every individual is capable of setting forth strong and singular personal qualities with skill and originality. In Chicago there is an admirable number of these photographers.

The present exhibition represents four of these intrepid individuals who are working independently for the valuable and gratifying satisfaction which comes from the statement of original ideas and individual reactions to life and art. Others will be shown in the future. A few notes on the four photographers who are grouped together at the present time may be of interest to visitors.

RODNEY GALARNEAU was born in Goodsoil, Saskatchewan, in 1936. After living in various parts of Canada, he came to the United States in 1951, entered Saint Mary's Mission House in Techny, Illinois, and remained there until 1956. From 1956 through 1958 he was in the United States Navy, working as a photographer, more and more convinced of the camera's possibilities as an expressive medium. In 1959 he returned to Chicago and attended the Institute of Design. During 1960 he conducted the gallery, Photo Independent, exhibiting the work of a number of talented new workers in the medium. His prints, with their wealth of perception and feeling, reproduce the pleasure he finds in that reflection of the world which can be observed in small details of nature and objects ignored or neglected by the ordinary eye.

THOMAS KNUDTSON is the youngest of the group of photographers in the exhibition. He was born in Chicago in 1939 and studied at Wright Junior College. Later he entered the Institute of Design. This winter his work was represented in the exhibition, Photography Sampler, organized by Jacob Deschin, photography editor of The New York Times, and shown at The Little Gallery in New York. His abilities are adaptable to all the varied material found in people, places and scenes of activity and he is most gifted with his unbiassed representation of the present moment.

Born in Torrington, Connecticut, in 1936, DAVID ROWINSKI began photographing with a Kodak Pony camera at the age of thirteen. The development of a serious interest in the medium led him to the Rochester Institute of Technology where he studied with Minor White and worked with him as an apprentice. He came to Chicago in 1959 for further study, attracted by the work of Harry Callahan and Aaron Siskind. In 1960 he was selected for the New Talent Issue of Art in America as one of America's most gifted young photographers. His photographs were shown in Photography at Mid-Century at George Eastman House and published in the book on that exhibition as well as in Aperture. His work, executed with plausible conscientiousness and technical finish, impresses one as a testimonial of austere sensibilities.

JOSEPH STERLING is a native of El Paso, Texas, where he was born in 1936. He attended Texas Western College for two years and came to The Institute of Design in Chicago in 1956 where he has studied with Harry Callahan, Aaron Siskind and Frederick Sommer. His work has been exhibited in a number of shows in this country and in England, Germany, France and the Philippines. It has been reproduced in U. S. Camera, Modern Photography and Infinity. He has rare qualities for the difficult and dangerous practice of photographing people in their most fleeting gestures and moments and an extraordinary gift for translating them into compositions that seem improvised and instantaneous but which are always governed by a strong yet unpretentious ability for design.