

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camera Clubs

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

MARTHA BENNETT KING, CE 6-7080

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Photographs by Syl Labrot are on display in The Art Institute's Gallery of Photography through Sunday, March 5, 1961.

The 33 year old artist, born in New Orleans, now living in Stepney, Connecticut, began to work with a camera 10 years ago, specializing in color for magazines and advertising. "I did almost every sort of free lance stock picture there is, landscapes to pin-ups and babies," he writes.

Last year Labrot turned his attention to black and white "because there is a certain purity in monochrome which, for technical reasons, is difficult to achieve in color photography."

"In technique, my aim is for control," Labrot says. "From the start of my work I saw the camera image as something quite separate from the reality perceived by the eye, and being a thing separate, it presented its own sense of space. Later I began to see that the camera could create a new space out of the relationship of visual reality to the graphic forces of print...my work moved from objective reality to try to discover what the print itself was - flat, two dimensional - something quite opposite from nature. I saw photographs as lines, times, masses - separate existence rather than an invitation of nature."

"The color prints have been made either by dye transfer, carbro or Duxachrome process. All three are

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based on the same principle (separation negatives, and then positives, either by dye transfer or, in the two latter processes, by gelatin relief images which are combined), It is sometimes hard to tell which were done by which process, but by holding the print to the light, the carbro and Duxachrome processes give a slight relief to the image. The most recent work I have done (the nature subjects) have been with the Duxachrome process which is almost unknown outside of Germany. There it has been in limited use since 1936. It is a sort of combination of dye transfer and carbro principles, with most of the characteristics of carbro and the ease of dye transfer."

Labrot articulates his approach to photography in the book "UNDER THE SUN, a collaboration with Walter Chappel and Nathan Lyons, published by George Braziller.

One-man exhibitions of Syl Labrot's work have been held at George Eastman House, Rochester, New York; The Colorado Springs Fine Art Center; Carl Siembab Gallery, Boston. His photographs have been shown several times at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, most recently in the photographic exhibition, "The Sense of Abstraction," and a number of them were part of a three-man show held at the Poindexter Gallery in New York, an exhibition which is now being circulated throughout the country by the American Federation of Arts.