

# *News Release* FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"The Interpretive Photography" of Lewis Hine, 70 master works from a photographer who used his camera and flash gun as a weapon for social progress, will be on display in the Gallery of Photography, The Art Institute of Chicago, Friday, August 4 through Sunday, September 10.

Born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1874, Hine taught himself to use a camera while teaching at New York's Ethical Culture School. A sociologist with a master's degree from New York University, he was haunted by a desire to record the hardships suffered by hordes of Europeans who poured into New York City in the late 1890's.

Hine's documentary reports of immigrants on Ellis Island, of families living in city slums, of women and children working long hours under abominable factory conditions shocked comfortable citizens of the prosperous USA. His report of the lives of Pennsylvania miners was published as "The Pittsburgh Survey." As official photographer for the National Child Labor Committee, his irrefutable photographs became responsible for important child labor laws. The years of World War I were spent with the American Red Cross in Europe. Post war years were devoted to the problems of feeding homeless masses.

However, the dark side of life did not completely overshadow Hine's work or his faith in America. Returning to New York in 1920, he began an important series depicting men at work. Dramatically he recorded each step of the rise of the Empire State Building, reporting the calm, death-defying moves of the men who worked high in the air. As the last girder was riveted, Hine himself rode wrecklessly on a boom far over the city "shooting" his men. During the 1930's and until his death in 1940, Hine photographed the work of relief agencies.

The current exhibition of Hine's work is circulated by the George Eastman House, Rochester, New York.