

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Photographs by Robert Riger will be on view at The Art Institute of Chicago through December 2. The Pros: A Documentary of Professional Football in America is a collection of some 100 photographs made by Mr. Riger over a number of years.

Famous as a sports artist before his photographs were known to the public, Riger originally used the camera to document the games he reported and to insure the accuracy of his drawings. "I am fascinated by the detail and design of football play," he says. "The camera helps me catch it all and leave the stadium with the ball game in my pocket."

Riger's photographs are not random action shots, not frozen fractions of movement. Each photograph is an illustration of a particular point of view, a "representative picture of this game and all games." Players, managers, watching crowds, are all captured as participants in this, his favorite sport.

Born in New York, where he still lives, Robert Riger graduated from Pratt Institute in 1947 with a first prize in illustration. After wartime service in the Merchant Marine and the U.S. Navy, he did magazine layouts for Esquire and the Saturday Evening Post and worked as an advertising art director for a time. As a free-lance in 1955, Riger contributed the first of the 1,200 drawings he did for Sports Illustrated.

In 1960, The Pros was published, showing Riger's versatility as writer, illustrator, photographer and reporter. Many of the photographs which first appeared in the book are in the current exhibition, supplemented by others which have been made since.

"Every artist should have a concept of life," Riger has said. "My concept is dramatic; my style is the documentary; my subject is sports."