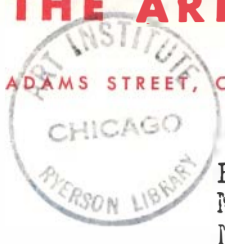


Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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



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An exhibition of American Landscape Photographs by Fred Beckman will be on display in the Photography Gallery of The Art Institute of Chicago from Sunday, November 9 through Sunday, December 8, 1963.

Thirty-eight black and white photographs, taken during the past two years in Illinois, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Nebraska and Kentucky comprise the current exhibition, which is Mr. Beckman's first one-man show.

There is an extraordinary purity in Beckman's photographs of ordinary scenes. There are no symbols, no clichés, to distort the beauty of simple things simply seen. Light is an element of primary importance in his work: the complexities of a grazed field are called out by the way the sun's rays strike it; mist gives a grandeur to a valley farm. The natural drama of an approaching storm, a newly plowed field, a rainy country road, is allowed to speak for itself.

Many of the photographs are of rural scenes, but Beckman is also fascinated by what he calls "anonymous architecture." A building at West Armitage in Chicago is shown splendidly eclectic with different decorative motifs over each of its eight windows, and small-town houses take on their full dignity when photographed by him.

Fred Beckman was born in Mattoon, Illinois in 1932. He studied drawing and painting at Illinois State Normal University and at Illinois Wesleyan University. His undergraduate work was in psychology and biological science at the University of Chicago, where he is now a Research Assistant in the Department of Neurosurgery at Billings Hospital.

Mr. Beckman was awarded a prize for work exhibited in the University of Chicago's "Festival of the Arts." He is currently represented in Photography '63: An International Exhibition, first shown at the New York State Exposition, and now at the George Eastman House, Rochester, New York.