PHOTOGRAPHS

BY

EDMUND TESKE
EDMUND TESKE, now a teacher of photography at the University of California in Los Angeles, was born in Chicago and spent his early life there. This, however, is the first exhibition of his work in this city.

During WPA years he produced a large documentation of the life of that time and later was photographer for Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin. Since then he has lived in California and is a pioneer in the recent revival of multiple printing, solarization and other techniques. He has made, also, many portraits of Hollywood personalities.

Although his work has strong personal character and stands alone amidst the many trends and tendencies of modern photography, it has had far-reaching influence. The present exhibition is a survey of his accomplishments including a group of prints made during his early years in Chicago and extending to the present. Most of Mr. Teske's photographs are untitled with only indications of date and location.
The camera is a reliquary for Edmund Teske, a box preserving vestiges of what the eye venerates. Fragments of tactile experience are focused through the psychological aperture of homage, and the outsider, observing Teske's results, asks himself why these particular photographs hold so much wonder. It is Teske's love for the secret clues profusely scattered in life, those shadowings which lead men to trace themselves within alien contours until they come to sites of their own initiation. A romantic among direct-print photographers, and an inventor among those manipulating development procedures for unique effects, Teske's special position among American master photographers since the Thirties is due to the consistently reflective spirit of his work. In a medium given to analysis, his vision has always sought synthesis.

Rosalind G. Wholden in Art Forum

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