

June 5, 1963.

Mr. Ivan Dmitri,  
Photography in the Fine Arts,  
230 Park Avenue,  
New York City, 17, New York.

Dear Ivan Dmitri:

CAME  
The preparation and hanging of a new show and many other matters have prevented answering your letter and acknowledging the catalogue of Photography in the Fine Arts: IV. It has been on my mind since they came and after discussing the matter with Harold Joachim, Curator of Prints and Drawings, I want to send you a reply before I leave tomorrow for my vacation.

Our exhibition program is planned and definitely scheduled for a year and a half. In addition to this, we have a list of more than fifty photographers whose work we would like very much to show and more are constantly coming to my attention. Surely material to exhibit is not one of our problems! Also, we have certain plans and motives for our sequence of exhibitions which I feel have brought excellent results. It is our desire to present shows which originate in The Art Institute and may be identified with it. Since 1959 - when we resumed photographic activities - we have used exhibitions from an outside source in only three instances. These were from George Eastman House and were needed to carry out our plans which demanded the inclusion of Alexander Gardner, Lewis Hine and a survey of the work of Minor White. Large survey shows do not fit into our project, even if we had space for displaying them. Recently we have had a new gallery assigned and although it is in a better location and more attractive, it is not as large as the one formerly used (85 feet of wall space compared with 150).

I hope these facts explain why we cannot include your exhibition in our plans. The principal reason is - of course - our wish to organize our own shows and in doing this I feel we have been of some use to photography and the public by introducing work of significance and value which may have been overlooked elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.