



The Photographs of Ansel Adams On View at the Tucson Museum of Art

Tucson, Ariz – The work of one of the greatest American photographers and environmentalists of the twentieth century will be presented this fall at the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block. *Ansel Adams: A Legacy* contains more than 130 photographs of the people and landscapes that have become icons of western America. Each photograph was printed by Adams in his darkroom at Carmel Highlands, California. The exhibition includes many of his most famous images in the size he intended them to be viewed. It will be on display October 10, 2009 – February 14, 2010.

Ansel Adams sought to express the psychological experience of natural beauty and the sublime magnificence of nature in the romantic spirit of the American Transcendentalists. Born in San Francisco in 1904, Adams developed a love of nature from his solitary hikes as a child in the region around the Golden Gate Bridge. At first intent on becoming a concert pianist, Adams was inspired to pursue photography during a 1916 trip to the Yosemite Valley. In 1919 he joined the Sierra Club, an affiliation that became pivotal in his success as a photographer and inspired a life-long passion for environmental causes.

Adams' love of the American landscape comes through clearly in his photographs. He was an ardent conservationist and environmentalist, often serving as a lobbyist, advocate and sponsor for environmental issues. The humanist beliefs and values instilled in him by a devoted father, combined with his extroverted nature created a dynamic personality. Adams was interested in people and the world around him. His belief in "giving back" produced thousands of photographs, more than forty books, numerous journal articles, educational workshops, erudite correspondences, and impassioned advocacy.

The photographs in this exhibition are original works created between the late 1920s and the early 1980s, a span of nearly sixty years, and document his prolific career. They include early efforts as Adams first explored his medium, and masterworks from his most productive period dating from the late 1930s through the 1950s. Originally selected by Adams and given to The Friends of Photography to represent his legacy, the photographs are now part of the Lynn and Tom Meredith Collection.

Embracing the traditional with the inventive, the Tucson Museum of Art presents original and traveling exhibitions with a focus on Art of the American West, Latin American Art, and Modern and Contemporary Art, and boasts a permanent collection of more than 7,000 works. The Historic Block features five distinctive houses built between 1850 and 1907 that provide a unique look into Tucson's past. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm. The first Sunday of each month is free. It is located at 140 North Main Avenue in historic downtown Tucson.

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