

## PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM RECEIVES GIFT OF MAJOR PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

*Collection Includes Prints by Julia Margaret Cameron, Alfred Stieglitz,  
Edward Steichen, Paul Strand and Brassai*

*Anonymous Gift Adds Over 500 Works from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries to Museum Collection*

March 5, 2008, Palm Springs, California—The Palm Springs Art Museum has received a transformative gift of 543 photographs and limited edition books with original photography dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries encompassing a range of important artists and styles. The gift, received from an anonymous donor, significantly elevates the museum’s growing photography holdings and strengthens the permanent collection as a whole. The scope of the new collection ranges from early views of Egypt and the Holy Land by Francis Frith and photographs of Rome by James Anderson from the 1850s and 60s, to contemporary work by artists such as Duane Michals, Milton Rogovin, Jock Sturges, Joel Peter Witkin, and Arthur Tress. The gift comprises strong examples of work by early 20<sup>th</sup> century Pictorialists, including Heinrich Kuhn, Julia Margaret Cameron, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Alfred Stieglitz, and Edward Steichen, and modernist masters such as Paul Strand, Andre Kertesz, Andreas Feininger, Helen Levitt, Brassai, and Harry Callahan.

“This wonderful gift transforms the role of photography within the museum’s collection, and will enable us to share hundreds of important works with residents and visitors of the Palm Springs area,” said Steven Nash, Director of the Palm Springs Art Museum. “It is a foundational gift that propels the museum into the ranks of serious photography programs and provides a very strong base for continued growth.”



Brett Weston, *Dunes, Oceano*, 1934

The donation marks the most important addition to the museum’s photography collection in the past decade and the latest milestone in an ongoing strategy to strengthen the institution’s exhibitions program, grow the permanent collection, and invest in capital improvements instituted by Nash since he joined the museum in April of 2007.

The gift adds the first examples of European photography and works by several major historic figures and movements to the museum’s holdings. In total, 98 photographers are represented, as well as a sizeable group of works that are unattributed. The collection comprises equal portions of photogravures and prints in a variety of photographic processes. Prior to receiving this gift, the museum’s photography collection was large, totaling nearly 50,000 works, but concentrated largely

in two areas: celebrity photographs from the 1930s to the 1960s in Palm Springs and Hollywood, and desert photography, featuring the archival holdings of landscape photographer Stephen Willard. The collection also includes work by contemporary artists, with an emphasis on California photographers.



Harold Edgerton, *Rodeo*, 1950s

The Palm Springs Art Museum has ambitious plans to expand its photography program and is now in the process of forming a new Photography Council. This group will assist with expanding the collection and developing important exhibition programs.

An exhibition offering a first look at selected highlights from the gifted collection is planned for 2009 or early 2010. Additional photography exhibitions include a survey of the iconic work of leading architectural photographer Julius Shulman focusing on modernist architecture in the Palm Springs area, on view February 15 to May 4, 2008, and a monographic exhibition of the portraiture of Robert Mapplethorpe scheduled for January 2009.

### **About the Palm Springs Art Museum**

Located downtown in an architecturally significant building designed by E. Stewart Williams, the Palm Springs Art Museum features a dynamic special exhibitions program, a permanent collection of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art, and two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum also offers lectures and educational programs for visitors of all ages, and a diverse schedule of performances in its newly-renovated Annenberg Theater.

The museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under.

**For general information**, call 760.332.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).

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