

# Ansel Adams's favorite 75 on exhibit at Institute of Arts

During his lifetime, Ansel Adams (1902-1984) took more than 40,000 photographs. Before he died, he selected just 75 subjects to represent the range of his life's work and designated this group "The Museum Set" prints.

A museum set, owned by Pacific Telecast Group, is now touring the country as "Ansel Adams: Classic Images" and is on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts Sunday, through Sunday, Oct. 29.

These photographs, personally selected and printed by the artist, illustrate the breadth of subjects and locations photographed by Adams — from Alaska to the Appalachians, from the Maine coast to Yosemite.

While known primarily for his expansive and heroic wilderness landscapes, Adams also is recognized for his portraits, still life and architectural studies and intimate glimpses of nature.

The Museum Set includes many of his most famous scenes including "Monolith, the Face of Half Dome" (1927), "Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite Valley, California" (1944), "Moonrise, Tierrasanta, New Mexico" (1941) and "Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite Valley" (1950).

In date, they range from the early "Lodgepole Pines" of 1921 to the late "Eagle Peak and Middle Brother" of 1988. Interspersed are his portraits of artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1937), Alfred Hitchcock (1944) and Jose Clemente Orozco (1952).

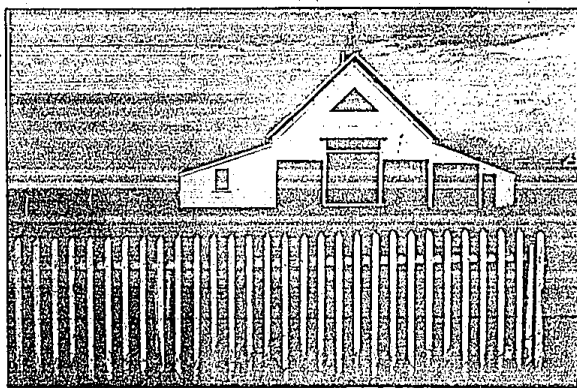
In creating the Museum set, Adams made no attempt to reproduce the early works exactly; instead, he made the prints to reflect his perfected technique and the new materials, processes and equipment that weren't available when he first printed many of the negatives.

Adams had an uncanny ability to transform landscapes into metaphors for epic themes. His photographs idealized nature and heightened viewers' appreciation of it, especially in the American West. A prominent spokesman for the conservation movement, Adams was an active member of the Sierra Club for more than 60 years.

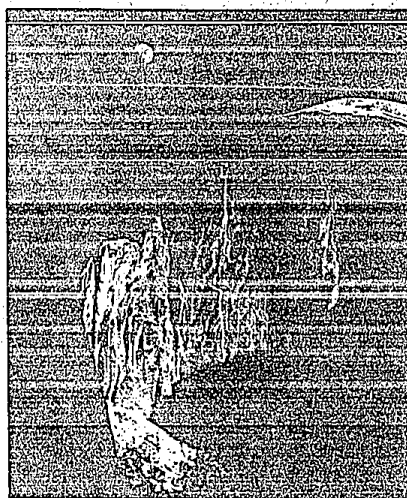
To professional photographers, Adams's most important technical contribution is the Zone System, developed in 1941 while he was teaching at the Art Center School in Los Angeles. By dividing the tonal scale into 11 zones from black to white, the system is "a framework for understanding exposure and development and visualizing their effect in advance."

The exhibition is open free to the public during regular museum hours 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Closed Mondays and holidays.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated hardcover book containing all 75 images in the Museum Set and an extensive biographical essay by James Allinder, former director of the Friends of Photography, an organization founded by Adams in 1967. (\$29.95 at the DIA Museum Shop).



Ansel Adams took this photograph of a display of geometric shapes, he actually improved upon nature.



Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, Cal., was taken by Ansel Adams in 1950.

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