## Phoenix Art Museum

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# EXHIBITION DRAWN FROM ANSEL ADAMS ARCHIVE BRINGS NEW LIGHT TO OLD FAVORITES

Phoenix Art Museum is the Exclusive Venue for Ansel Adams: Discoveries

**PHOENIX** (October X, 2009) – *Ansel Adams: Discoveries,* opening January 31, 2010, at Phoenix Art Museum, offers new insights into the photographer's greatest works by bringing the unparalleled holdings of the Center for Creative Photography's Ansel Adams archive to light. The exhibition, featuring 120 photographs and dozens of rare archival documents and materials, will allow Museum visitors to explore the career and beloved photographs of one of America's photographic masters in tremendous detail.

The Center for Creative Photography, at the University of Arizona, was co-founded by Adams and then university president, Dr. John P. Schaefer. Adams worked throughout his life to champion photography as an art form, culminating in the creation of the Center for Creative Photography in 1975. The Tucson institution houses Adams' personal collection of prints and papers, as well as video footage, personal correspondence, photographic equipment, proof prints, alternate views, negatives and portraits of the photographer. Due to a standing collaboration between Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography, the Museum will be the only institution to host this fascinating and rich exhibition.

"The Center for Creative Photography is among the most highly-respected photographic collections in the world and the only one to have such a personal relationship with Adams and his work," commented James Ballinger, The Sybil Harrington Director, Phoenix Art Museum. "It is the Center's connection to and understanding of Adams that distinguishes this show from all other Adams exhibitions. Phoenix Art Museum is thrilled to host an exhibition of this magnitude as part of our landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography. It is also personally rewarding for me, as I met Adams at the opening of the Center in 1975."

Categorized into six aspects – time, place, medium, subject, theme and role – *Ansel Adams: Discoveries* highlights Adams' early work, his photographs of the American Southwest, his pictures of the National Parks project, his relatively unknown color photography, his architectural views and his teaching career. Exhibition highlights include:

 Works from Adams' first portfolio, Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras, as well as his first photo album (1916) made following his first visit to Yosemite on family vacation.

- Photographs of New Mexican Indians from the late 1920s and southwestern landscapes, including Canyon de Chelly, San Xavier del Bac and Aspens, New Mexico.
- Adams' masterpiece Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941 presented alongside the negative, Adams' printing notes, his dodging tools and an alternate print that demonstrates the dramatic range of interpretations the photographer applied to his famous work.
- A range of images initially made as color film transparencies which replicate the vibrancy and luminosity of Adams's originals.
- Course descriptions, film footage, and photographs of participants that help convey the experience of Adams' workshops.
- Instructional manuals, including his first, Making a Photograph, which demonstrate his dedication to sharing his knowledge of the medium.

"The goal of *Ansel Adams: Discoveries* is to provide a deeper understanding of Adams' iconic and adored photographs," commented Rebecca Senf, Norton Family Assistant Curator of Photography, Phoenix Art Museum. "The historic material mined from the Center's archives enriches our understanding of the artwork so that we can simultaneously show Adams' masterpieces alongside unfamiliar works and provide new perspectives of each."

#### **Exhibition Details**

Ansel Adams: Discoveries is presented by Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography in the Museum's Steele Gallery January 31 through June 6, 2010.

The exhibition is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography.

Admission to the exhibition is included in general museum admission, which is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (65+), \$8 for full-time college students with ID, \$4 for children ages 6-17 and free for children under 6 and for museum members.

Museum hours are Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Thursday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.

### A Landmark Photography Partnership

In 2006, Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona in Tucson inaugurated a highly innovative and unprecedented collaboration to bring the finest in photography to Phoenix Art Museum visitors. Funded by Doris and John Norton of Phoenix, it established a vibrant new photography exhibition program at the Museum, while bringing the Center's world-renowned collections to new and larger audiences.

The Center for Creative Photography is one of the world's largest repositories of materials chronicling photography. Founded in 1975, it now houses 3.8 million archival items and 80,000 fine prints by photographers including Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Harry Callahan, Aaron Siskind, Frederick Sommer, W. Eugene Smith, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, and Garry Winogrand.

#### **About Phoenix Art Museum**

Phoenix Art Museum is the Southwest's premier destination for world-class visual arts. Popular exhibitions featuring artists such as Rembrandt, Norman Rockwell, Annie Leibowitz and Monet are shown along side the Museum's outstanding collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art,

and fashion design. A community epicenter for nearly fifty years, Phoenix Art Museum presents festivals, live performances, independent art films and educational programs that enlighten, entertain and stimulate. Visitors also enjoy PhxArtKids an interactive space for children, vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, the lushly landscaped Sculpture Garden, dining at Arcadia Farms at Phoenix Art Museum, and shopping at The Museum Store.

To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit <u>PhxArt.org</u>, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

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