The Pritzker Center for Photography
Fact Sheet

Background
Comprising 15,000 square feet, the Pritzker Center for Photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) nearly triples the amount of space for photography and fills the majority of the museum’s third floor. The largest gallery, research and interpretive space permanently dedicated to photography at any United States art museum, the center deepens and expands SFMOMA’s historic commitment to this medium.

Photography Collection
One of the first institutions to recognize photography as an art form, SFMOMA’s collection has approximately 32,000 works dating from the advent of the medium in 1839 to today’s digital images.

Highlights of the photography collection include:
- Major holdings of the Western landscape and California photographers, with works from the 19th century including Carleton Watkins and his contemporaries, as well as significant groups of photographs by Ansel Adams, Edward Weston and contemporary practitioners including Larry Sultan, Henry Wessel and many others.
- Important works of land use and landscape in the American West from the 19th century to the present, with the largest collection of works by Robert Adams in any major museum.
- The finest collection of Japanese photography outside of Japan.
- Modernist photography, with special strength in work by American photographers Alfred Stieglitz and Charles Sheeler, as well as a collection of Modernist work in Europe from between the wars, by Man Ray, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and examples of Surrealism.
- A major representation of Documentary work and Documentary-style photography, with very strong and deep collections of work by Diane Arbus, Helen Levitt, Wright Morris, Garry Winogrand and international figures Rineke Dijkstra, David Goldblatt and Shomei Tomatsu.
- A trove of over 9,200 Polaroids made over 30 years by April Dawn Alison, the private persona of an Oakland-based commercial photographer known to family and friends as Alan Schaefer.

The Pritzker Center for Photography Galleries and Spaces

Permanent Collection Galleries
Galleries devoted to the collection feature a greater depth and variety of presentations drawn from the museum’s holdings of approximately 32,000 works.

Special Exhibition Galleries
These large, flexible spaces allow SFMOMA to continue its acclaimed photography exhibition program.

Photography Interpretive Gallery
Connecting the permanent collection galleries and special exhibition galleries is an innovative photography interpretive gallery, generously supported by the McEvoy Family, which allows visitors to explore the medium in depth and enhance their understanding through a variety of interactive opportunities. The interpretive gallery features self-directed activities, encouraging visitors to curate...
their own experiences. Photography Interpretive Gallery exhibits are supported by Bank of the West. Additional support is provided by Nion McEvoy; a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. SFMOMA’s Digital Initiatives are generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Study Center
A more accessible and improved photography study room is located within the Collections Study Center, generously supported by Ray and Dagmar Dolby. The study room accommodates greater numbers of visiting scholars and students, and is designed for hands-on viewing of prints, drawings and photographs which are stored within the space in a high-density vault. An adjacent meeting area provides more space for collaborations between the museum’s curators and scholars, artists, teachers and the public. Furnishing sustainable photography storage is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.

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