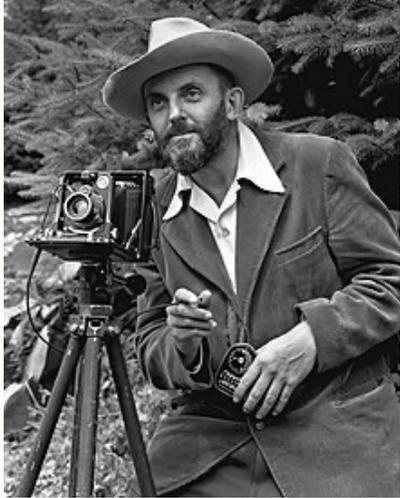


Artist Resources – Ansel Adams (American, 1902-1984)



Adams, c. 1950
Photograph: Yosemite Field School

[The Ansel Adams Gallery](#)

[Adams at MoMA](#)

[Adams at the Center for Creative Photography](#)

A 1932 group exhibition at the de Young Museum in San Francisco inspired the founding of Group f/64 by Adams, Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976), and Edward Weston (1886-1958). Read an article published by the [Art Genome Project](#) for Artsy about the group and an overview of the photographers' goals by Lisa Hostetler from the Department of Photographs at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).

Read an article from the National Park Service about how Adams' work impacted the [conservation movement](#). The photographer was an avid environmentalist and joined the [Sierra Club](#) at age 17.

In 1943, Adams documented the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California, where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II. Browse [digitized photographs](#) from this collection at the Library of Congress and read an [article](#) by Akiko Ichikawa, "How the Photography of Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams Told the Story of Japanese American Internment."

Adams was a founding member of [Aperture](#) in 1952. Browse the Ansel Adams archive of photobooks, editorials and writings – both by and about the artist – on the magazine's website.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosted a major retrospective of Adams' photographs in 1974. Read a [review](#) of the exhibition by Hilton Kramer in the New York Times.

Watch a [rare video interview](#) with the artist from 1971 and [read another](#) with Adams and Jan Butterfield from 1976.

Adams was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980. [Read the remarks](#) made by President Jimmy Carter at the ceremony, which were archived by the American Presidency Project.

Watch a 1983 [BBC Master Photographers](#) episode and a 2002 [PBS documentary film](#) about Adams and his career.

Read Adams' [last interview](#) he gave with Milton Esterow in the summer of 1984.

The [Boston Museum of Fine Arts](#) organized *Ansel Adams in Our Time* in 2018, which traveled to the [Crystal Bridges Museum of Art](#) in 2020 and the [Portland Art Museum](#) in 2021. Read a review of the Boston edition in the [New York Times](#) and listen to Art Unbound's [podcast episode](#) about the Portland edition.

[Ansel Adams: Compositions in Nature](#) was on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2021-2022. Watch short videos produced by the museum on Adams as a [conservationist](#), [musician](#), and [photographer](#).



Adams at Inspiration Point, Yosemite, 1976
Photograph: Alan Ross

Ansel Adams (American, 1902-1984)

Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941 (printed 1962-1968)

Original gelatin silver mural

Private Collection; L2022:91.1

“Driving south along the highway, I observed a fantastic scene as we approached the village of Hernandez. In the east, the moon was rising over distant clouds and snowpeaks, and in the west, the late afternoon sun glanced over a south-flowing cloudbank and blazed a brilliant white upon the crosses in the church cemetery.” – Ansel Adams, 1941.

Ansel Adams is one of the most celebrated photographers in American art history. The artist and environmentalist is known for his sharp focus, black-and-white images of the American West that helped establish photography as a fine art practice in the mid-20th century. **Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico** is among Adams’ most famous landscapes. In 1941, the artist was traveling with his son Michael and friend Cedric Wright in Northern New Mexico, near Georgia O’Keeffe’s Ghost Ranch. According to the photographic legend, Adams set up so quickly to capture the shot that he could not find his light meter. In a moment of brilliance, the artist remembered that the luminance of the full moon is 250 candles per square foot and adjusted his camera accordingly before the scene disappeared with the setting sun.

On view October 12, 2022 – January 15, 2023

