

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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THE ANIMALS

A place where animals look at people and people look at animals--the zoo-- is given a highly personal interpretation in the photographs by Garry Winogrand, collected in The Museum of Modern Art's new publication THE ANIMALS. Most of the 46 photographs in the book will be on view in the Museum's Steichen Gallery from October 22 through December.

Amusing and witty, often poignant, Winogrand's pictures are "as complicated and as simple as ancient parables," John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, writes in the book's afterword.

An elephant pleads for a peanut; a smiling whale rolls luxuriously in the water; a young man is mesmerized by the wrinkled face of a rhinoceros with a broken tusk; the King of Beasts tries unsuccessfully to mount his mate; a girl is transfixed by the penetrating gaze of an arrogant llama; three seals quietly observe the group of bystanders leaning on the railing around their pool; a child aims a toy gun mercilessly at a grizzly bear.

Mr. Winogrand's zoo suggests that people are fascinated by animals not only because they are funny-looking or seem to have a certain nobility. Pacing, staring, eating, yawning, copulating, these animals caught in their ludicrous routine perhaps satisfy a darker side of human curiosity. "It may be that we are relieved to find that even the animals, with their much-publicized supposed virtues--sharp of tooth, swift of foot, courageous in protecting their young, good eyes, etc.--that even the animals can be reduced to a state of whimpering psychic paralysis if they are forced to live

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in circumstances similar to those of the typical modern urban dweller," Mr. Szarkowski observes.

In the moments captured in his photographs, "Winogrand has made chaos clearly visible; he has disciplined it without breaking its spirit. It is not supremely difficult to make a clear picture of a truism, and it is easier still to hold up a mirror to the maelstrom and call it art. But to see and set down with acuity the flickering meanings that illuminate the menagerie we perform in--this is a creative miracle."

A free-lance photographer in New York City since 1952, primarily in the field of advertising, Garry Winogrand has been represented in several group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, notably in New Documents (1965). Born in New York City in 1928, he began photographing while in the Air Force during World War II. He studied painting at the City College of New York and Columbia University, and photography with Alexey Brodovitch at the New School for Social Research. In 1964 and 1969 he received Guggenheim Fellowships for photography.

THE ANIMALS photographed by Garry Winogrand, with an Afterword by John Szarkowski. 48 pages; 46 illustrations
Paperback, \$2.50
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Additional information, photographs and review copies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Joan Wiggins, Associate, Press Services, Department of Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 (212) 956 - 7501, 7297.