

THE GOLDEN DECADE

Photography at the California School of Fine Arts 1945-1955

Shortly after World War II the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) in San Francisco hired renowned photographer Ansel Adams to establish one of the first fine art photography departments in the United States. The CSFA's photography program, established by Adams and taught by Minor White, also included as guest instructors, some of the great photographers of the time. Top names such as Edward Weston, Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham, Lisette Model, Nancy and Beaumont Newhall, and Homer Page. The newly enacted G.I. Bill enabled all veterans to attend the college or trade school of their choice. For many this opened the door to an educational opportunity which would have otherwise been unavailable to them. This exhibition showcases the work of some of those early students.

The accompanying book *The Golden Decade* focuses on CSFA's photography department between 1945 and 1955, and is the result of a collaboration between three former students of Adams and White, William Heick, Ira H. Latour, C. Cameron Macauley, and editors (and local residents) Ken Ball and his wife Victoria Whyte Ball (whose father, Don Whyte, had bequeathed them an abundance of negatives and contact prints from his student years at CSFA). Together this team embarked on an important journey into photography's past that is embodied in this book.

The Golden Decade presents imagery from over 32 photographers, among them Pirkle Jones, Ruth Marion Baruch, Philip Hyde, Rose Mandel, David Johnson, Gerald Ratto and John Upton.

The Golden Decade: Photography at the California School of Fine Arts 1945-1955

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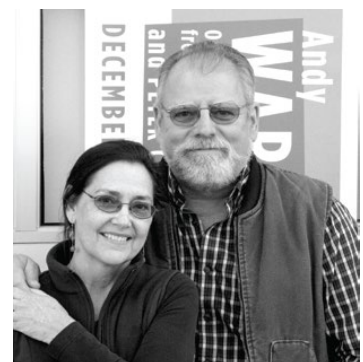
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C. Cameron Macauley, Ira H. Latour, William Heick.
Photo by Abe Aranow 2002



Victoria Whyte Ball, Ken Ball
Photo by Stefan Kirkeby 2012



Bay Meadows Racetrack, CA 1949 *C. Cameron Macauley*



The Orient Express 1952 *Ira H. Latour*



Hats Seattle, Washington 1951 *William Heick*



Winter Forest Near Badger Pass, Yosemite National Park, CA 1948 *Philip Hyde*



Dancing at a Joint in the Bayview District, San Francisco 1957
David Johnson



San Francisco, CA 1953
Bob Hollingsworth



San Francisco, CA 1948
Pat Harris

High resolution images are available on request. Please contact Ken Ball or Victoria Whyte Ball