

Major Photography Gifts Add Depth to the Collections

Three major gifts of photographs were celebrated in March at a reception honoring the donors and their families. “These extraordinary gifts build on the institution’s considerable strength in photography of California and the American West,” said Jennifer A. Watts, curator of photographs at The Huntington. “They also add significant depth to our holdings related to Ansel Adams and a circle of like-minded artists who were dedicated to the craft of fine art, black-and-white photography as a means of exploring the natural world.”

Seven Portfolios by Ansel Adams Gift of George Melvin Byrne and Barbara S. Barrett-Byrne

Over the course of his long career, Ansel Adams produced seven portfolios, each a group of between 10



Ansel Adams, *Monolith, the face of Half Dome*, ca. 1926. Gelatin silver print. Plate 1 in *Portfolio III, Yosemite Valley*, 1960.

and 15 photographs selected and printed by the artist himself. They represented, Adams said, “an excellent cross-section of my work.” The Huntington has received all seven portfolios in a gift from George Melvin Byrne and Barbara S. Barrett-Byrne. George Byrne, who was a passionate amateur photographer, passed away not long after making the donation. He acquired five portfolios directly from Adams, having

become acquainted with the artist while taking one of his legendary Yosemite workshops.

Photographs by William R. Current Gift of the estate of William R. Current

More than 400 photographs related to the landscapes of the American Southwest, ca. 1956–81, were donated by the estate of Pasadena-born artist William R. Current. Best known for his seminal work documenting the Arts

& Crafts architecture of Charles and Henry Greene, Current received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1964 to focus on prehistoric Pueblo architecture, work that forms the core of this substantial gift. The donation came from the estate through Karen Sinsheimer, Current’s former wife and an esteemed curator of photography at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.



William R. Current, *Mesa Verde*, 1964. Gelatin silver print.

Photographs by Ansel Adams and his Followers Gift of Jack and Beverly Waltman

Jack and Beverly Waltman donated a collection of 73 fine art photographs focused on the landscape work of Ansel Adams and later artists working “in the school of” Adams. In addition to images by Adams (and prints made by his longtime darkroom assistant, Alan Ross), there are photographs by Henry Gilpin, Ray McSavaney, John Sexton, and Don Worth, as well as single images by such luminaries as Berenice Abbott, Ruth Bernhard, Walker Evans, William Garnett, Brett Weston, and Edward Weston.



John Sexton, *Aspens, Dusk, Conway Summit, California*, 1978, printed 1984. Gelatin silver print.