

Photographers focus of exhibit

Portraits paired with artists' work

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The small balcony above the Cincinnati Art Museum's entrance hall often is ignored by visitors heading for large galleries and major exhibitions. But it's an ideal place for small, carefully focused exhibitions.

The art now on the the balcony is photography, a collection of photographs by and of significant photographers. Titled *The Photographer in Focus*, the show presents a group of paired pictures, one a portrait of the photographer, the other a photograph by the artist in the portrait.

It's a fascinating match. When a photographer takes a photo of, say, Ansel Adams, the guru of American photography, does he

If you go

► **What:** *The Photographer in Focus.*

► **When:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday, through Nov. 2.

► **Where:** Cincinnati Art Museum, Eden Park.

► **Admission:** \$5, \$4 senior citizens and college students. Museum members and children under 18 free. Free to all on Saturday.

► **Information:** 721-5204.

take the picture in the manner of the subject? How do you depict the master of the camera with a camera? Each set of prints in this show presents an answer.

Ansel Adams was photographed in 1981 by Cincinnati photographer Jeffrey M. Kauck. His face glows in a beam of light, his beard white as snow. The

image shown with it is a 1933 Adams photograph of an old gravestone, glowing against a dark background in a composition that is much like that of the Kauck portrait.

Aaron Siskind, whose photographs played a fine balancing game between abstract and pictorial images, is caught within a cage of abstract shadow patterns by Robert Richfield, a Cincinnati-born photographer. Mr. Siskind's print is of a weathered wall which, seen alone, could be an abstract painting, but a woman walking in front of the wall introduces the same interplay of ideas that Mr. Richfield's image suggests.

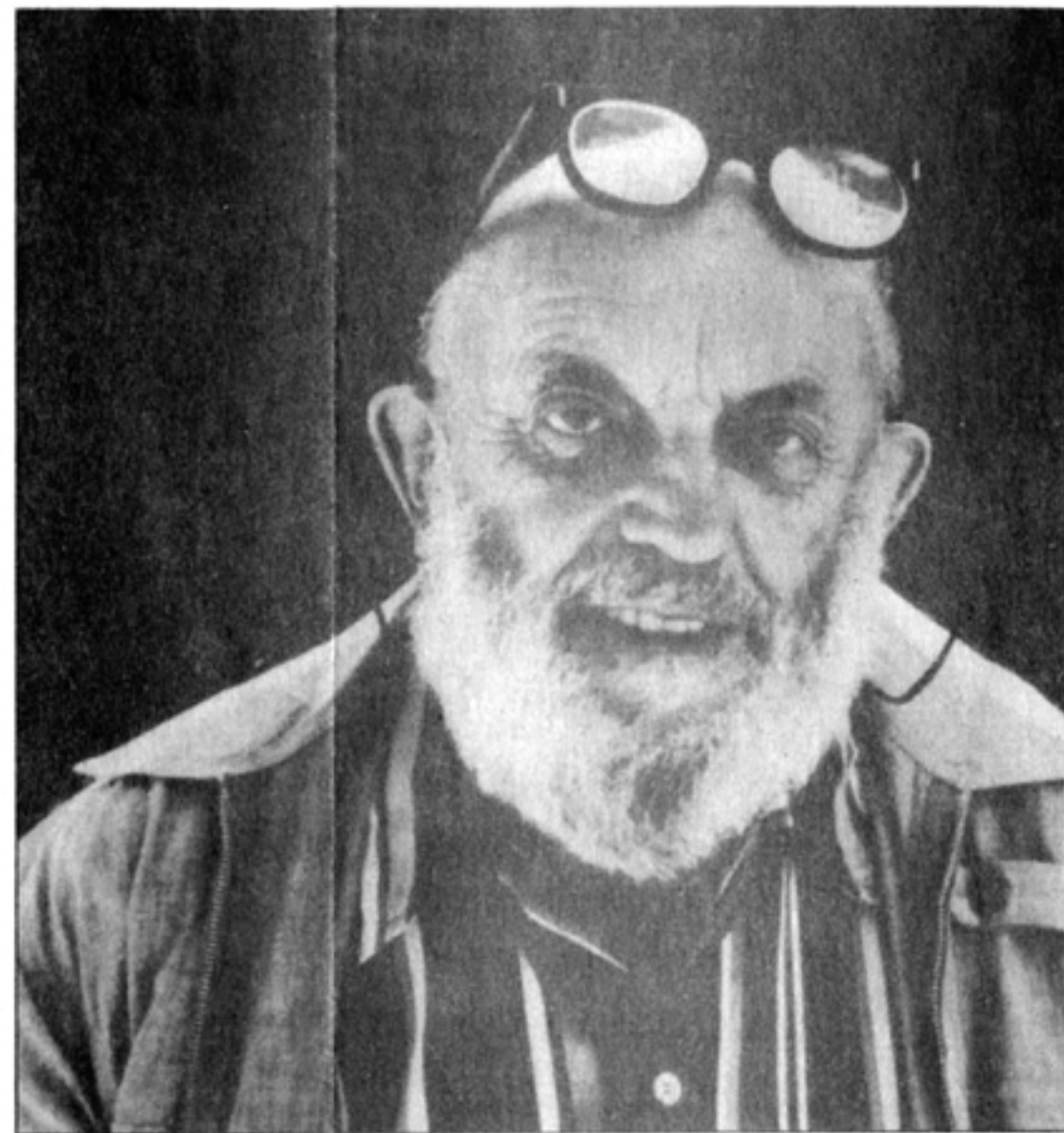
Czechoslovakian photographer Vilem Kriz was known for the surreal quality of his work. A dusty suit of Japanese samurai armor in a shop window becomes an eerie demon in his print, while Cincinnati photographer Cal Kowal adds a ghostly double image

of Mr. Kriz in his portrait of the artist.

The abstract quality of natural objects was important to Edward Weston, who is represented by a photograph of a green pepper that looks like a sculpture of a nude figure. Photographer Imogene Cunningham photographed Mr. Weston in 1945 standing in front of a rock formation which has the kind of sculptural qualities that Mr. Weston admired.

Other artists featured are Anne Noggle, Ralph Steiner and August Sander, each with a self portrait. Ralph Steiner's self portrait is compared to his portrait of comedian Jimmy Durante.

Most of the works are from the museum collection. Some have not been shown, while others may be familiar from earlier exhibitions when they were shown in different contexts. Loans to this exhibition from private collections fill the gaps.



Jeffrey M. Kauck took this photo of Ansel Adams in 1981.