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Eva Arnold
Photojournalist

Photojournalist takes a fresh look 'In America'

ART NEWS

Hunter Drohojowska

It takes a stranger to see a strange land. A Frenchman, Alexis De Tocqueville, chronicled his experiences in America more than a century ago and his work remains a landmark.

In like manner, Eve Arnold, noted photojournalist for such magazines as *Life*, *Esquire* and *Geo*, traveled the globe for 20 years recording foreign scenes. In 1980, she earned particular acclaim for her book "In China," one of the first photographic essays on the People's Republic of China. She returned to this country to promote that book and found that America seemed as foreign and intriguing to her as Kabul.

In a democratic spirit, Arnold took up the challenge to photograph the diversity of America. Her findings, "In America," were published by Alfred A. Knopf last month. In the introduction, Arnold writes, "I had been brought up on the myth that America is a melting pot. . . . But the truth is . . . we have not melted. We share a common heritage, but have not become a common mass. . . . I began to realize that this was the most exotic country I had ever been in — more extraordinary in its richness and variety than Tibet or Egypt or Mexico or Russia . . . or China."

Arnold concentrated on the people of America: miners, businessmen, socialites, vagrants, protesters, students and so on. Indeed, diversity emerges, though some viewers may find the familiar imagery less fascinating than The Great Wall.

Arnold will be giving a slide lecture about her latest work on Monday at 8 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Tickets for the event, sponsored by Women in Photography and Vivitar Corp., are \$5, available by mail from the theater at 4401 W. 8th St., L.A., 90005, or at participating dealers of Vivitar photographic equipment.

Call 939-1128 for further information.

Photography galleries in L.A. have suffered a depressing attrition rate in the last three years. The faltering photography market closed Light Gallery and has forced Stephen White to sell photographs by appointment only. Now, Cameravision, a cooperative gallery for member photographers, is threatened. Because of internal strife, only one board member remains and membership has dwindled from 200 to the current 70, reducing income from membership dues. Larry Gruda, director, says he is still trying to keep the doors open but "can't keep it running much longer because I need money, too." Gruda hopes to receive money from the National Endowment for the Arts, from which the gallery got \$3,000 last year. If he doesn't get "funding and participation" by next month, however, Cameravision will have to close. To make matters worse, their phone was disconnected after a volunteer ran up a \$400 bill. Those wishing to offer assistance to the gallery can call Gruda at 389-2253.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art opens its new Alice Keck Park Wing on Dec. 3 with a survey exhibition "From Avery to Zurbaran: A New View of the Permanent Collection." The show highlights a spectrum of the museum's holdings ranging from "The Buffalo Hunter," by an anonymous American folk artist, the first object ever given to the museum, to a recently acquired Isamu Noguchi sculpture. Roman, African, Indian and Egyptian sculpture, Oriental sculpture and textiles, as well as painting from the Renaissance to the present, demonstrate the diversity of the museum's holdings. A complimentary seasonal exhibition, "Dolls on Holiday," features 30 dolls and mechanical toys from the museum's permanent collection.

The Long Beach Museum of Art

brings the video work of artists into the homes of the community. "Shared Realities" is the title of a pilot cable program featuring two one-hour time slots per week on Long Beach Cablevision Channel 3. The same program, alternating between "media arts and issues"

and "culture in Long Beach," is shown on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 3 p.m. Those who don't live in the area can see the afternoon show at the museum's Station/Annex, 5373 E. Second St., Long Beach. For more information, call 439-2119.

Events: Richard Prince — praised by critics for his photographs that feature the highly stylized "look" of advertising and fashion — is considered one of the originators of post-modern photography. He has shown at the Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery here and at Metro Pictures in New York. Less known is his talent as a fiction writer. His first book, "Why I Go To The Movies Alone," was published by Tanam Press last month. He'll be reading segments from that book tomorrow at 8 p.m., at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice. Admission is \$2.

Howard Singerman, art critic and lecturer, will be discussing the topic of his recent article in *Art in America*: "Rothko's Ghost in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," tonight at 7:30 p.m., at the Pacific Design Center's second floor theater, 8687 Melrose Ave. Admission is \$3. Call 655-1730 or 390-6888 for more information. The lecture is sponsored by the Foundation for Art Resources.

"Explorations," CalArts' series of performance events, continues with Linda Nishio on Dec. 8, at 8 p.m., at the Japanese American Cultural Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro, downtown. For ticket information, call 362-2315 or 480-3232.