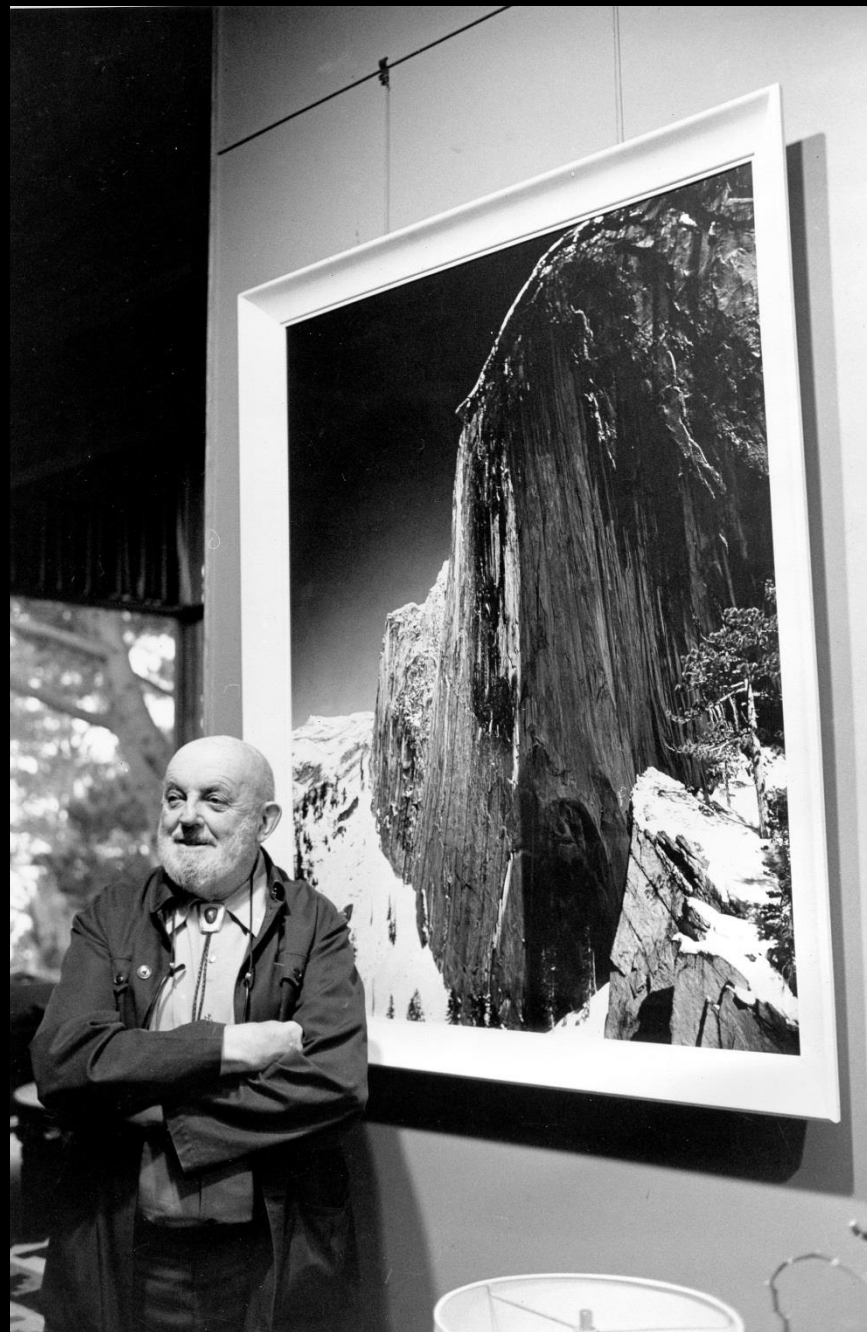


ANSEL ADAMS

1902-1984



HIS LOVE OF THE NATURAL WORLD BEGAN EARLY AND
BECAME THE MOST POTENT INFLUENCE ON HIS ART.



Childhood



- Born on Feb. 20th 1902
- San Francisco, California
- Son of a relatively wealthy businessman
- Family experienced a financial collapse following the earthquake of 1906 & the economic panic of 1907
- His father kept the family relatively afloat
- This home served as the starting ground for Adam's love of nature & exploration

Education

- Adam's suffered from dyslexia, extreme shyness & hyperactivity
- Dismissed from multiple private schools in his early life
- Tutored by his Father and Aunt predominantly at home following the failed attempts at open education
 - Only equivalent to a 8th grade education



Musical education

- The structure that Adams was not able to find in school was found in his music lessons
 - Adam's showed interest in the piano at age 12
 - Was later tutored by American composer Henry Cowell
- Musical lessons taught Adam's into precision and perfectionism, giving substance to his hyperactive personality
- By 1920 Adam's main occupation was as a musician

- In 1916 Adam's & his family took a trip to Yosemite
 - Adam's was captivated by the essence of the park and how massive & grand everything seemed

“One wonder after another descended upon us.... There was light everywhere.... A new era began for me.”

- This event sparked Adam's passion for photography



Early Photography

- Following his first trip to Yosemite Adam's became eccentric for the world of photography, reading photography journals. Attending multiple camera club meetings & experimenting during his trips to Yosemite
 - In 1919 Adam's joined the Sierra Club, which played a pivotal role in his passion for the art as they published many of his photos into the clubs journal

Artistic Support



Albert M.
Bender

Patron to
Adam's
work



Virginia Best Adams
(Wife)

Allowed Adam's to use the
family home as a studio for his
work



Paul Strand
(Fellow Photographer)

Influenced Adam's "Straight
Photography Style, founding
member of f/64 & assisted in the
development of the "Zone
system"

Pictorialism

The photographer has somehow manipulated what would otherwise be a straightforward photograph as a means of "creating" an image rather than simply recording it.



Pictorialism vs. Straight

Early realm of photography trying to get accreditation by blending many other art forms into the medium

Key features

- Very soft/out of focus subject matter
- Very warm/deep cool coloring
- Visible manipulation of exposures

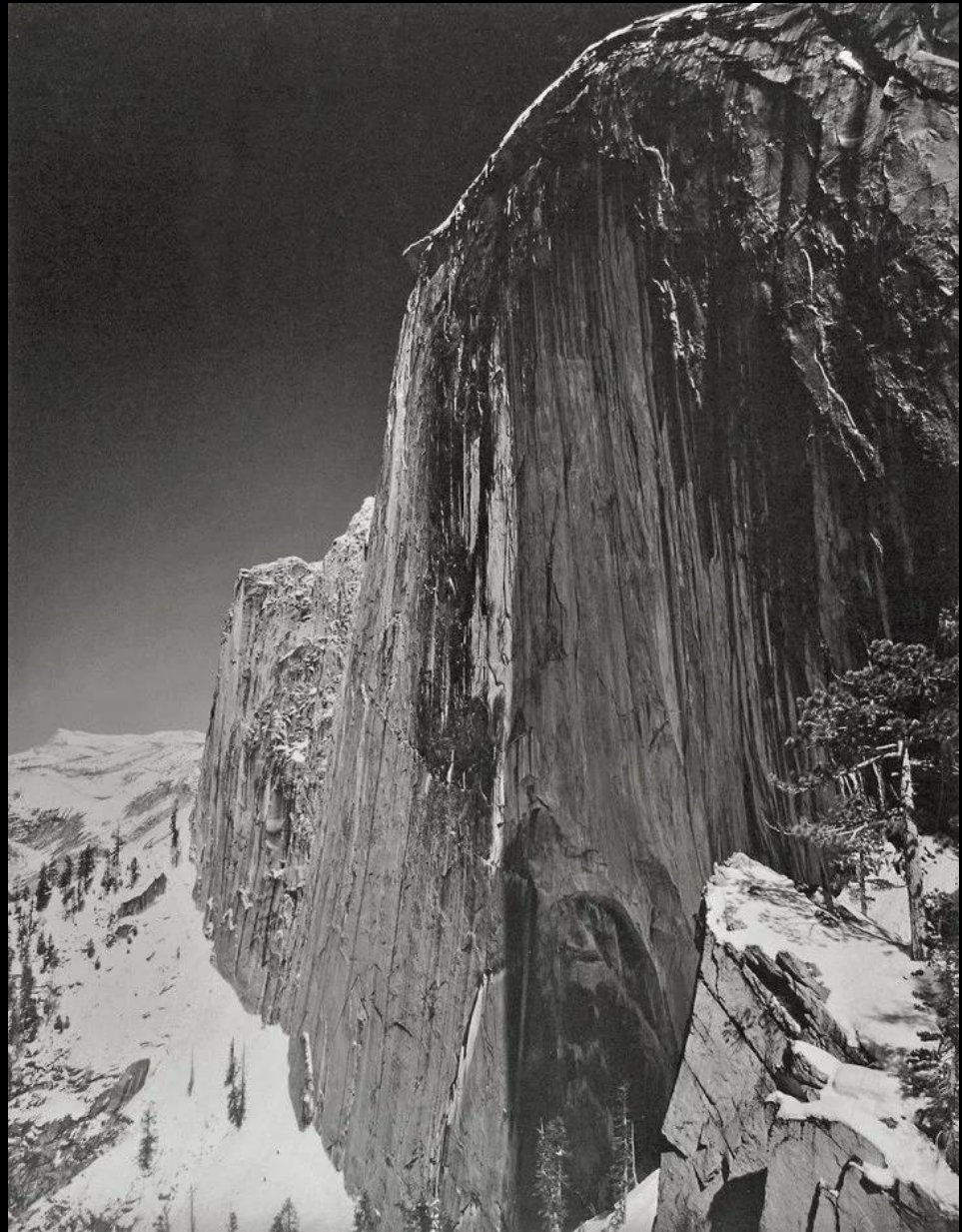






Straight Photography

- Attempts to depict a scene or subject in sharp focus and detail
- Paul Strand
- Alfred Steiglitz
- Ansel Adams
- Edward Weston



Straight Photography

West coast form of
photography endorsed
by Adam's Group F/64

Key Features

- Very sharp subject matter and tonality
- Little manipulation of the exposure
- Purely focused on the art of photography as a specific medium







Frank Sheppard



TO ASSIST IN TEACHING THE
TECHNICAL SYSTEM HE HAD
DEVELOPED AND TERMED THE
'ZONE SYSTEM', HE PUBLISHED A
SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHIC
TEXTBOOKS THAT REMAIN IN USE
TODAY.



ANSEL ADAMS ZONE SYSTEM

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pure Black	Near Black slight tonality no detail	Dark Black slight detail in shadows	Very Dark Gray distinct shadow texture is visible	Medium Dark Gray slightly darker black skin, dark foliage, landscape shadows	Middle Gray 18% gray darker tan white skin, lighter black skin, light foliage, dark blue sky	Middle Light Gray average white skin, light stone, shadow areas on snow	Light Gray pale white skin, concrete or gray asphalt in sunlight	Gray/White pale detail in highlights, white wall in sunlight, bright surfaces	Bright White slight detail in highlights, white paper, snow, white water	Pure White no detail light sources, specular highlights



Zone 7

Zone 3

Zone 5



0 I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X

Garth Seem





Activism and later

- Adam's love for nature led him to be a strong advocate and figurehead for the environmentalist movement
 - He supported more investment into the National Park service and the use of reusable resources
- Adam's work and love for the nature work was often criticized by publications for his lack of "evidence of humanity" & depicted an idealization of the landscapes
 - This was intentional on the part of Adam's whose work help preserve much of the national park services credit

Adam's spent much of his later years printing negatives of his work to fill the high demand as photography became more widely accepted as an art form

Adam's died of a heart attack at age 82 on April 22 1984

Death



ADAMS PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED THE COURSE OF 20TH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY THRU THE EXAMPLE OF HIS CLASSIC IMAGES, THRU HIS TECHNICAL SAVVY, AND BY THE FORCE OF HIS PERSONALITY.





















