

the International fund for **Concerned Photography inc.**

275 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

June 10, 1974

Dr. Eliot Porter
Route 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501

Dear Dr. Porter:

This note is to inform you that all is not bad news in 1974 . . . The enclosures will tell you that the INTERNATIONAL CENTER of PHOTOGRAPHY has acquired the building you undoubtedly know well, the Audubon House on 94th Street and Fifth Avenue!!

The plans are advancing satisfactorily and, if all goes well, we are to open in late September or early October with a full program of exhibits, education, and archival services!!

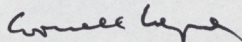
I am writing to you to ask your help in the creation of a Photographers Advisory Council, which would in fact define the quality, the commitment, and the direction of the Center. I have already received the enthusiastic acceptances of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ernst Haas, W. Eugene Smith, Dr. Roman Vishniac, Hiroshi Hamaya, Gordon Parks, Arthur Rothstein, Howard Sochurek, Ben Fernandez, Carl Chiarenza, and Bruce Davidson.

I also intend to ask Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Walker Evans, Richard Avedon, and Ken Heyman.

It would give me great joy and honor if you'd accept!! Any comments and other suggestions about the composition and function of the Council??

Hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience. Have a great summer.

Best,



Cornell Capa

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Enclosures

PS: Any possibility for a major Porter exhibit??

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The Fund

seeks to encourage and assist photographers of all ages and nationalities who are vitally concerned with their world and times. It aims not only to find and help new talents, but also to uncover and preserve forgotten archives and to present such work to the public.
Established in 1966 in memory of **Werner Bischof** (1916-1954), **Robert Capa** (1913-1954) and **David Seymour-"Chim"** (1911-1956).

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New Museum for Photography To Be Headed by Cornell Capa

By GRACE GLUECK

A new museum devoted exclusively to photography will open in October, with the photo-journalist Cornell Capa as its executive director. The museum, to be called the International Center of Photography, has acquired Audubon House, a landmark building at Fifth Avenue and 94th Street, as its headquarters.

"The center will live up to its name as an exhibition, educational and archival facility," said Mr. Capa, pointing out that no other institution, with the exception of Eastman House in Rochester, deals in depth exclusively with photography.

"We are interested in photography as a humanistic visual discipline," he added, noting that the museum will have "a documentary/commentary direction, more than a purely esthetic point of view." A main function will be to serve, as no other institution does, as an archive for negatives—particularly those of photographers "in the documentary tradition."

The center will be backed in part by the International Fund for Concerned Photography, a nonprofit organization founded by Mr. Capa in 1966, in memory of three photographers killed on assignments, Werner Bischof, David Seymour and Mr. Capa's brother, Robert Capa.

It will also derive income from other foundations, admissions and educational activities, and funds guaranteed by its board of trustees. The board, the same as that which administers the International Fund for Concerned Photography, includes photographers, educators, museum curators, art historians, psychologists, architects, writers and philanthropists.

There will be sufficient space in the six-story Audubon House, he added, to provide a permanent print and negative archival facility with a central file and retrieval system. In addition, the building will consolidate under one roof a program that includes exhibitions, education, publications, nationwide lecture series and international traveling shows of the kind organized by the fund for the last eight years.

Mr. Capa, who is 57 years old, was a photographer on the staff of Life magazine from 1946 to 1954, and has since been associated with Magnum, a group of freelance photographers.

Audubon House, commissioned by Willard D. Straight, founder of The New Republic, and completed in 1915 by the architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich, derives its name from its occupancy by the National Audubon Society between 1952 and 1971.

The center's establishment comes at a time of heightening interest in photography as a discipline of the visual arts, with enlarged exhibition activity on the part of museums across the country, an increase in courses at colleges and art schools and a number of commercial galleries devoted exclusively to photographic print shows.

Mr. Capa said yesterday, "It gives us satisfaction to preserve the building as a landmark and to bring to New York another vital cultural institution."