

*Stark Beauty: The Photography
of*
EDWARD
WESTON

July 22, 2017 — September 17, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legendary Photographer Edward Weston at the Bowers

SANTA ANA, CA (May 2017)—The Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California is pleased to announce *Stark Beauty: The Photography of Edward Weston*. Without Weston's ability to find and present the beauty of subjects as they had never been seen before, photography would likely not be considered fine art today. The exhibition highlights some of Weston's best and most important photographs. These **72** vivid gelatin silver print photographs are presented in three sections: the first includes portraits of Weston's many muses and well-known artistic contemporaries like Diego Rivera; the second section features photos that highlight the beauty of forms from nudes, to Weston's iconic and evocative shots of peppers, to man-made objects; and the third and final section highlights landscapes that depict the United States with unaltered focus and reality, with a brief study of Weston's ever-changing 20th Century world.

The exhibition is on loan from **The Capital Group Foundation**, an institution dedicated to making its collection of some of the most influential 20th Century American photographers available to the public for exhibition and education. *Stark Beauty* is organized by and exclusive to the Bowers Museum and will be on view from July 22 through September 17, 2017.

"I want the stark beauty that a lens can so exactly render, presented without interference of 'artistic effect.'"

—Edward Weston

Edward Weston (March 24, 1886- January 1, 1958) is one of the masters of American photography. Born in Highland Park, Illinois, Weston received his first camera as a gift from his

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father when he was sixteen years old. This Kodak no.2 Bulls Eye was the start of Weston' lifelong appreciation of the world through the lens. It was not long before he moved to Southern California and established himself first as a roving photographer, a studio assistant, and ultimately as the owner of his own cottage studio in Tropic, the area now known as Glendale. In these early years, Weston's artistic approach drew on pictorialism, the popular style of the day which emphasized alterations to photographs at the time of development to create a more painterly appearance. Throughout his career, Weston steadily edged towards a more modernist style, with an emphasis on sharply focused photography that presented an image just as it was captured and without further alterations. This approach revolutionized photography as an artistic medium, particularly through the efforts of the legendary group of American photographers, *f/64*, of which Weston was a part. His influence grew ever stronger with the award of the first Guggenheim Fellowship for photography in 1937. Tragically, in 1945 doctors diagnosed Weston with Parkinson's disease. Three years later he took his final photographs at his treasured Point Lobos, California where his ashes would be scattered after his death on New Year's Day, 1958.

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The **Bowers Museum** has earned an international reputation through its world-class exhibitions, including *A Quest for Beauty: Van Cleef & Arpels*; *Warriors, Tombs and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy*; *Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*; *Secrets of the Silk Road*; and *Mummies—Death and the Afterlife: Treasures from the British Museum*, as well as its own extensive art collections from throughout the Americas and the South Pacific. Additionally, the **Bowers' Kidseum**, located one block south of the main museum, offers a high-tech and interactive focus on its new mission of “Igniting Imagination through Exploration” spotlighting the excitement of art and archaeology.

Enjoy a leisurely luncheon at our award-winning restaurant, **Tangata**. Outdoor seating is also available, overlooking the Bowers' historic mission-style courtyard from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Browse the rare and exotic at the **Bowers Museum Gallery Store**. It's more than just a shopping trip—it's a cultural experience.

LOCATION, HOURS AND ADMISSION

The **Bowers Museum** is in Santa Ana, is centrally located in the heart of Southern California at 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

Tickets and Information	(714) 567-3600	www.bowers.org
Group Tours	(714) 567-3680	grouptours@bowers.org
Membership	(714) 567-3639	membership@bowers.org

Bowers Museum and **Kidseum** are closed on Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Regular operating hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS

	Weekdays	Weekends
Adults	\$13	\$15
Seniors (62 & up) & Students	\$10	\$12
Children (under 12)	Free*	

*Must be accompanied by a paying adult

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FREEDAY

The Bowers Museum offers free admission to Santa Ana residents, with proof of residency, each Sunday through a generous donation in memory of Dorothy Goerl and courtesy of the Lockhart Family.

PROGRAMMING

TALKS AND TOURS

Kim Weston

Sat, July 22

Take a special behind the photo tour of Stark Beauty: The Photography of Edward Weston with Edward Weston's grandson, Kim, as he shares the more intimate story of his photographer-grandfather. Learn how his life inspired generations to see the world through a black and white lens. Kim, a highly recognized photographer in his own right, will share insight on the art and process of each print and stories that will make them come alive for those fortunate enough to join this special tour. (Space is limited)

Jonathan Spaulding

Sun, July 23

The opening lecture will be presented by Jonathan Spaulding, former Executive Director of the Autry Museum of the American West and co-author of, "Edward Weston: A Legacy." Join Dr. Spaulding as he takes us on a historic journey through the work of photographer, Edward Weston, exploring his many influences and eclectic subjects, making him a legend in western, black and white photography and inspiring generations.

FILMS

Eloquent Nude the Love and Legacy of Edward Weston & Charis Wilson, directed by Ian McCluskey

Sun, August 27

She was beautiful, smart, and searching. He was an emerging genius in the world of photography. When they met, they fell instantly in love. Setting off across the West with camera and typewriter in the depths of the Great Depression, Charis Wilson and Edward Weston transformed photography, and each other. Now age 90, Charis Wilson recounts her years with Weston with great humor, candor, and some regret. Combining insight from leading scholars, rare archival images, and convincingly authentic reenactments, Eloquent Nude presents a remarkable true story of love and loss, travel and adventure, and an intimate look at the making of Modern photography.

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THE CAPITAL GROUP FOUNDATION

The Capital Group Foundation (CGU) holds collections of many of the most influential American photographers of the 20th Century, and has made it their mission to bring these artworks to the public by exhibiting at universities and museums. In the past 35 years, CGU has exhibited its photographic prints in venues across the United States and around the world.

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Pepper, 1930

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Nude, 1934

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Shells, 1927

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Juniper, Lake Tenaya, 1937

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Bedpan, 1930

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