

Photography Collection Overview

The inception of this collection was the exhibition, *Attitudes: Photography in the 1970s*, organized by Fred Parker who was the first part-time curator of photographs at the Museum. Many of the works featured in this groundbreaking presentation were acquired for the collection and were created by up-and-coming photographers, many of whom are now nationally recognized. Major gifts in 1983 and in 1985 from Arthur and Yolanda Steinman, provided an important, historical core of vintage and modernist works around which the collection has continued to be built. Areas of particular strength and focus within the collection are growing: works by California photographers from 1860 forward; contemporary photographs from Western Pacific Rim countries – Korea, China, Japan, Vietnam; artists exploring issues of science and science-based art; and selected examples by acknowledged master photographers. Other areas of strength include works by photographers with special ties to Santa Barbara, and works with synergistic relationship to other collection areas are actively being collected, such as French and Latin American.