



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
**U.S. Department  
of the Interior**

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# Media Advisory

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## *Ansel Adams: The Mural Project 1941-1942* opens at the Interior Museum

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of the Interior Museum presents *Ansel Adams: The Mural Project 1941-1942*, an exhibit composed of a eight images selected from photographs taken by Ansel Adams for the Department of the Interior. The exhibit opens Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and will be on view at the Interior Museum until November 30, 2009.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes envisioned the design of a headquarters for the Interior Department as symbolic of a new era for the Nation and its resources. In 1937 when the new Interior Building was completed and murals were being installed to illustrate the work of the Department, Ickes decided to include photographic murals. In 1941, the Interior Department commissioned Ansel Adams (1902-1984) to photograph National Parks, Indian Reservations, as well as other lands and projects in the West. Unfortunately, by June of 1942 the Interior Department's resources were redirected due to the Second World War, and the photomurals never became a reality. A sampling of the images Adams took for this project will be on view along with examples of correspondence between the department and Adams.

The exhibition opening coincides with the *Contemporary Landscape Photography and the Legacy of Ansel Adams* lecture being presented on June 20<sup>th</sup> in the Interior Museum Classroom at 2:00pm. Toby Jurovics, Curator of Photography at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, will relate how contemporary photography is driven by the same concern and affection for the American landscape displayed in Adams' work.

**What:** *Ansel Adams: The Mural Project 1941-1942* opens at the Interior Museum

**When:** Saturday, June 20

**Where:** Interior Museum, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**Special Assistance** – For those in need of special assistance (such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired) or inquiries regarding the handicapped entrance, please notify museum staff at (202) 208-4743 in advance of the program. Special needs will be accommodated whenever possible.

**About the Interior Museum:** The Interior Museum, located in the Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street, NW between 18th and 19th Streets, interprets the history of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The museum is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm and from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month, except for all Federal holidays. Entrance is free but all adults must have photo ID to enter the building.

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