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Focus on photographs as art

By Alicia Anstead
Of the NEWS Staff

Audrey Hepburn was on the movie set of "War and Peace" in Rome. Sophia Loren was a young starlet. Georgia O'Keeffe was already on Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. W.H. Auden was hanging out in a doorway, smoking a cigarette.

And George Daniell was there with his camera. He had been trained as an artist at Yale University during the 1930s, but found a niche for himself nationally by capturing famous and provocative images with his camera. His work appeared in Time, Life, Down East and Scribner's magazines. His prints are included in the permanent collections at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and at other places.

This October, when the Portland Museum of Art announced its current show, called "After Art: Rethinking 150 Years of Photography," I thought of George Daniell, the American photographer who lives in Trenton.

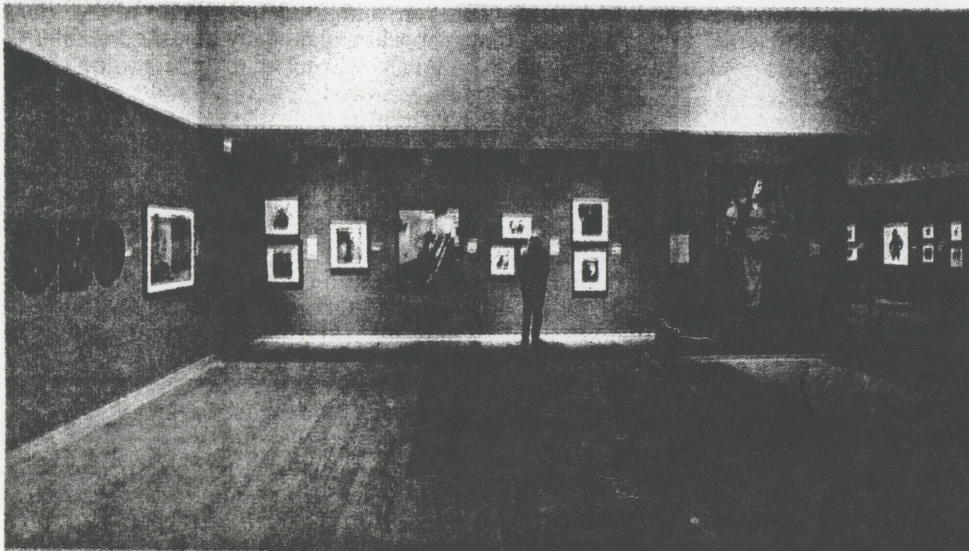
I met George last year through a mutual friend. He let me interview him one summer day and my co-worker, photographer Michael York, joined us. After the article appeared in the paper, George and I began corresponding regularly. Through the mail, we have become friends. So I felt I could ask him to join me on a jaunt to Portland to see the photography show. He agreed, and we set the date for early November.

Then George's temperamental foot knocked him off his feet for several weeks.

A month later, in a storm of rain and snow, I drove to Trenton and gathered George, his cane, his small point-and-shoot camera and a biography of Truman Capote into the car. The book was for me, he said.

The driving was slippery, unpredictable, and messy. Occasionally George would be scared into silence as I accelerated to pass trucks or slow drivers. "You're a good driver," he said hopefully, holding tightly onto the door handle.

In between those moments, George spoke about his
See Photos, C2, Col. 4



The gallery at the Portland Museum of Art is featuring the major exhibit "Rethinking Art: 150 Years of Photography."