



Smithsonian
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for
 American Art and Portraiture***

Smithsonian American Art Museum

February 2007

Media only: Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494
 Amy Hutchins (202) 633-8497
Media Web site: americanart.si.edu/press
Public only: (202) 633-1000

“Eadweard Muybridge: The Central American Journey” Fact Sheet

Exhibition

“Eadweard Muybridge: The Central American Journey”
 Feb. 2 – April 29

Location

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.
 Graphic Arts galleries, second floor

Description

Eadweard Muybridge (1830–1904), a pre-eminent landscape photographer who is best known for his stop-action photographs of humans and animals in motion, produced an album of photographs taken in Central America. “Eadweard Muybridge: The Central American Journey” focuses on these photographs, which represent an important aspect of the artist’s career that is receiving the attention they deserve for the first time. The exhibition highlights selections from this body of work, acquired by the Smithsonian American Art Museum during the past decade.

In 1875, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company engaged Muybridge to promote Central America as a destination for tourists and investors. He photographed the dramatic volcanic highlands of Guatemala, as well as the Spanish Colonial architecture there and in Panama. He also captured Guatemala’s emerging coffee industry, which was rapidly transforming the social and natural landscape as the region began to shift toward an economy based on modern, industrial commerce. The 60 photographs in the exhibition are drawn from an edition of the album “The Pacific Coast of Central America and Mexico; The Isthmus of Panama; Guatemala; and the Cultivation and Shipment of Coffee” that Muybridge assembled upon his return to California in 1876.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is located at Eighth and F streets N.W., above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Recorded information: (202) 633-7970. Web sites: americanart.si.edu and reynoldscenter.org.

###

Note to Editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from <ftp://saam-press@ftp.si.edu>. Call (202) 633-8530 for the password.