

New director of photography museum takes over

Cheri Larsen

The first full-time director for the California Museum of Photography on the UCR campus, Charles J. Desmarais, arrived last Tuesday from New York City.

Dean David Warren of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, in consultation with a committee of UCR faculty, chose the 32-year-old Desmarais to fill the post. Warren said, "I'm absolutely delighted to get him."

When the full-time position was established 13 months ago, Katherine Diage became acting director of the facility while also directing the University art gallery. With Desmarais' arrival, Diage will become assistant director of the museum, retaining her post at the gallery.

Desmarais will assume his post on May 5. Warren says that Desmarais has "a solid background in both the creative and scholarly aspects of photography and

the history of photography."

Desmarais has been chief editor for *Exposure*, a quarterly journal of the national organization for university photography instructors, the Society for Photographic Education, since 1977. He also directed the Chicago Center for Contemporary Photography at Columbia College from 1977 to 1979.

He served as assistant editor for the photographers' journal, *Afterimage*, from 1975 to 1977. Desmarais was creator for the Friends of Photography in Carmel from 1973 to 1974. Desmarais has also written articles for photography publications and received an Art Critic's Fellowship in support of his photography criticism.

According to Warren, "We were exhaustive in asking the candidates about their vision for the museum, and we were impressed with his ideas."

Desmarais described his hopes for improvement for the museum. "I think the museum can become a major

center for the study of the history of photography... One of the exciting things is that we intend to examine photography from sociological and anthropological perspectives in addition to the more traditional art history approach," he said.

The museum was established in 1973 to present exhibits to the public on photography, photography materials and their history. Also, the facility sponsors University research.

According to Warren, "Although the museum has continued to acquire materials and prints, it's really been in a holding pattern until the arrival of the director."

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It houses the Keystone-Mast collection of stereography; the Bingham Collection of cameras and photographic apparatus; and the Seltzer-Alexander Friends of Photography Collection, which includes prints by great artists such as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston and Wynn Bullock.



New director Charles J. Desmarais.