Naomi Slipp

**Adams, Ansel Easton (1902-1984)   Word count: 203**

Ansel Adams is known for technically precise, large format photographs of the American Western landscape. Self-taught, his father gave him a camera on a 1916 family trip to Yosemite National Park. One year later, he joined the Sierra Club. His life-long environmental activism led to Yosemite’s federal protection. Adams took one of his most famous photographs *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* in 1941 while photographing National Parks for the Department of the Interior. Adams’s early solo exhibitions include the Smithsonian Institution (1931), followed by a 1936 exhibition at Alfred Stieglitz’s New York gallery *An American Place*. Co-founder of *f/64*, a group dedicated to ‘straight photography,’ which eschewed manipulation in favor of objectivity, Adams established the Zone System, a method of teaching photographic exposure for precise tonal range, authored articles and guides, including *Making a Photograph* (1935), and co-founded *Aperture* in 1952. Creator of the photography department at the California School of Fine Arts and co-founder of the Center for Creative Photography, Adams was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 and died in Monterrey, CA, in 1984.

**References and further reading**

Hammond, A. (2002) *Ansel Adams: Divine Performances*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Haas K.E. (2005) *Ansel Adams: In the Lane Collection*, Boston: Museum of Fine Arts.