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| Adams, Ansel Easton (1902-1984) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Ansel Adams is known for his 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 the federal protection of Yosemite. 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’ early solo exhibitions include the Smithsonian Institution in 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 favour of objectivity, Adams established the Zone System, a method of teaching photographic exposure for precise tonal range. He also authored articles and guides, including *Making a Photograph* in 1935, and co-founded the photography magazine *Aperture* in 1952. Creator of the photography department at the California School of Fine Arts and co-founder of the Centre for Creative Photography, Adams was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 and died in Monterey, California in 1984. |
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| Further reading:  (Hammond)  (Haas) |