

## Ansel Adams 1902-84

**Ansel Adams**

<b>Born</b>	Ansel Easton Adams February 20, 1902 San Francisco, California, United States
<b>Died</b>	April 22, 1984 (aged 82)



**1915 - Despises the regimentation of a regular education and is taken out of school. For that year, his father buys him a season pass to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, (The World's Fair) which he visits nearly every day. Private tutors provide further instruction. Especially in piano**

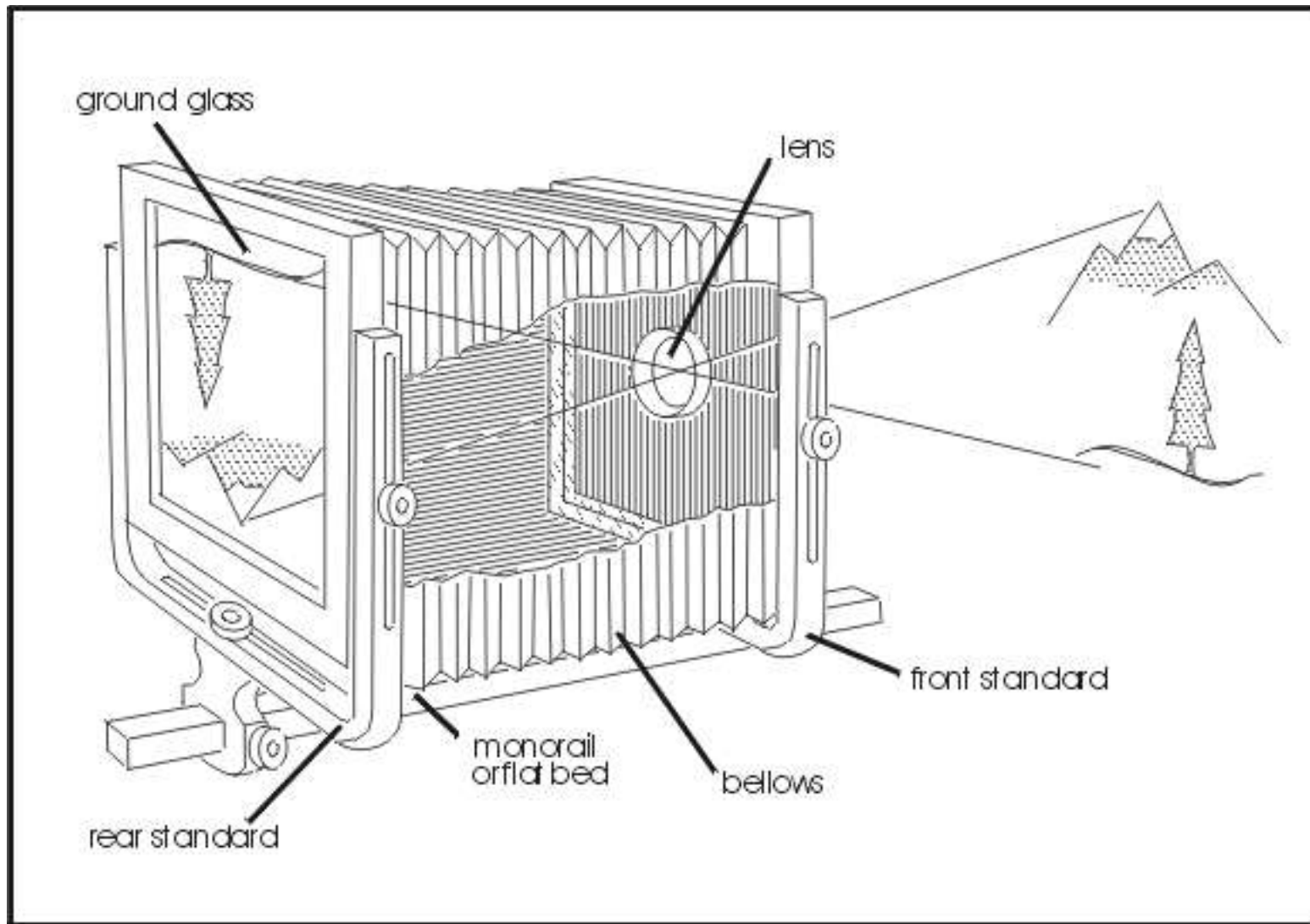
## **1916: Family Trip to Yosemite, California.**

**Begins to photograph there with first camera given him by his parents.**

**Develops an enthusiastic interest in both photography and the national park.**

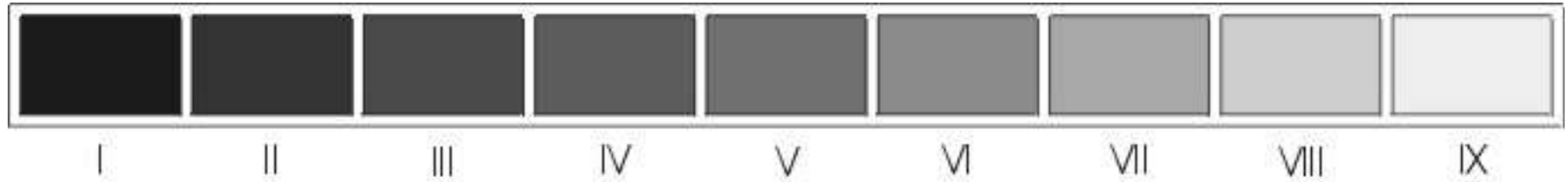
**Returns to Yosemite every year for the rest of his life.**

**1925: Decides to become a pianist.  
Buys a grand piano.**



**View Camera**

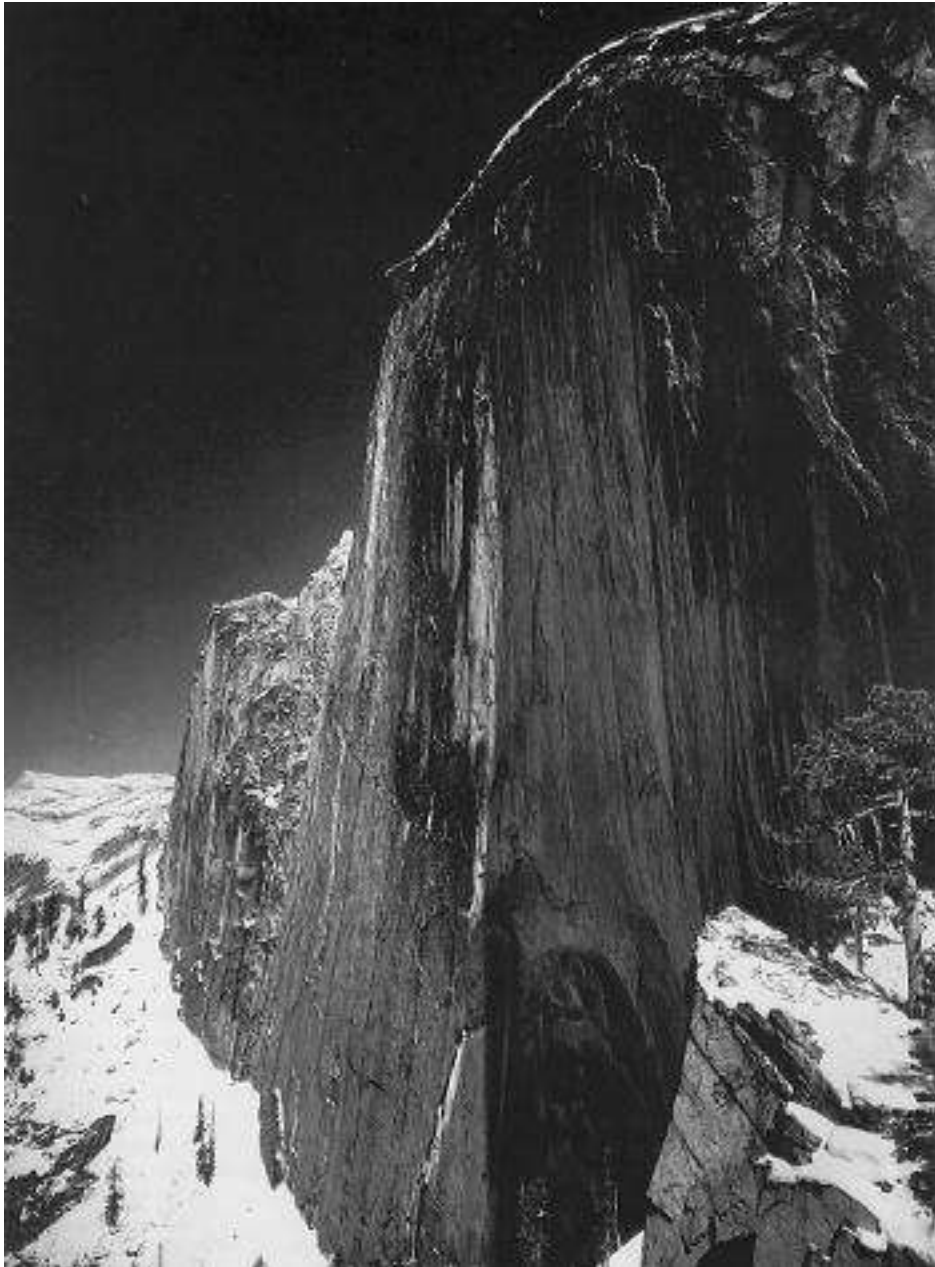
## THE ZONE SYSTEM



**previsualization: a mental exercise in which the photographer imagines the subject in terms of the black, white, and grays desired in the final photographic print.**

**Adam's used a realistic approach which relied more heavily on sharp focus, heightened contrast, precise exposure, and darkroom craftsmanship.**





**Ansel Adams  
Monolith, The Face of Half Dome,  
Yosemite Valley, California  
c. 1927**

**1927**

**Makes his first acknowledged masterpiece, *Monolith, the Face of Half Dome*, in April. He considers this image to be his first "visualization," using the term to describe the photographer's determination of the visual and emotional qualities of the finished print even before exposing the negative.**

**In 1927, Adams produced his first portfolio," Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras," in his new style, which included his famous image Monolith, the Face of Half Dome, taken with his Korona view camera using glass plates and a dark red filter (to heighten the tonal contrasts)**

**1930**

**Meets Paul Strand at Georgia O'keeffe's in New Mexico, becomes committed to a full-time career in photography after understanding Strand's total dedication to creative photography and seeing his negatives.**

**Strand especially proved influential, sharing secrets of his technique with Adams, and finally convincing Adams to pursue photography with all his talent and energy. One of Strand's suggestions which Adams immediately adopted was to use glossy paper rather than matte to intensify tonal values.**

**In 1931, Adams was able to put on his first solo museum exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C featuring 60 prints taken in the High Sierra.**

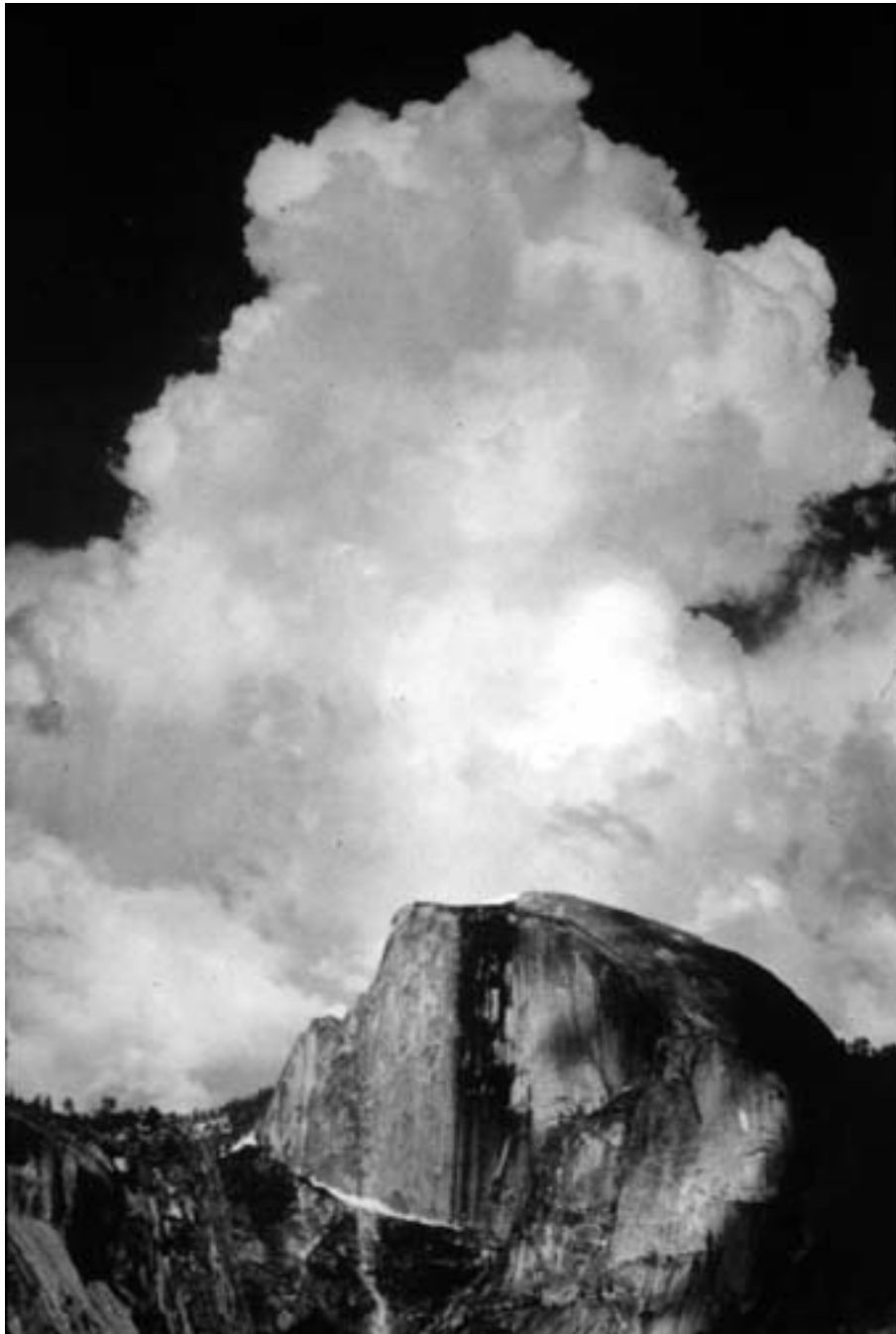
In 1932, Adams had a group show at the M. H. de Young Museum ( San Francisco with Imogen Cunningham and Edward Weston and they soon formed Group f/64, which espoused "pure or straight photography" over pictorialism (f/64 being a very small aperture setting that gives great depth of field). The group's manifesto stated that "Pure photography is defined as possessing no qualities of technique, composition or idea, derivative of any other art form.

**In 1932 Ansel Adams visited Steiglitz in New York. Steiglitz was impressed by his portfolio.**

**In 1936 Steiglitz exhibited Ansel Adams photographs in his Gallery: An American Place aka Gallery 291**



**Ansel Adams  
Clearing Winter Storm,  
Yosemite National Park  
c. 1937**



**Thundercloud,Half Dome**



**Ansel Adams became even more involved with the Sierra Club**

**His photos were being used to advocate for conservation of several areas that eventually became National Parks. He traveled to Washington DC to present to congress.**

**Kings Canyon  
National Park**



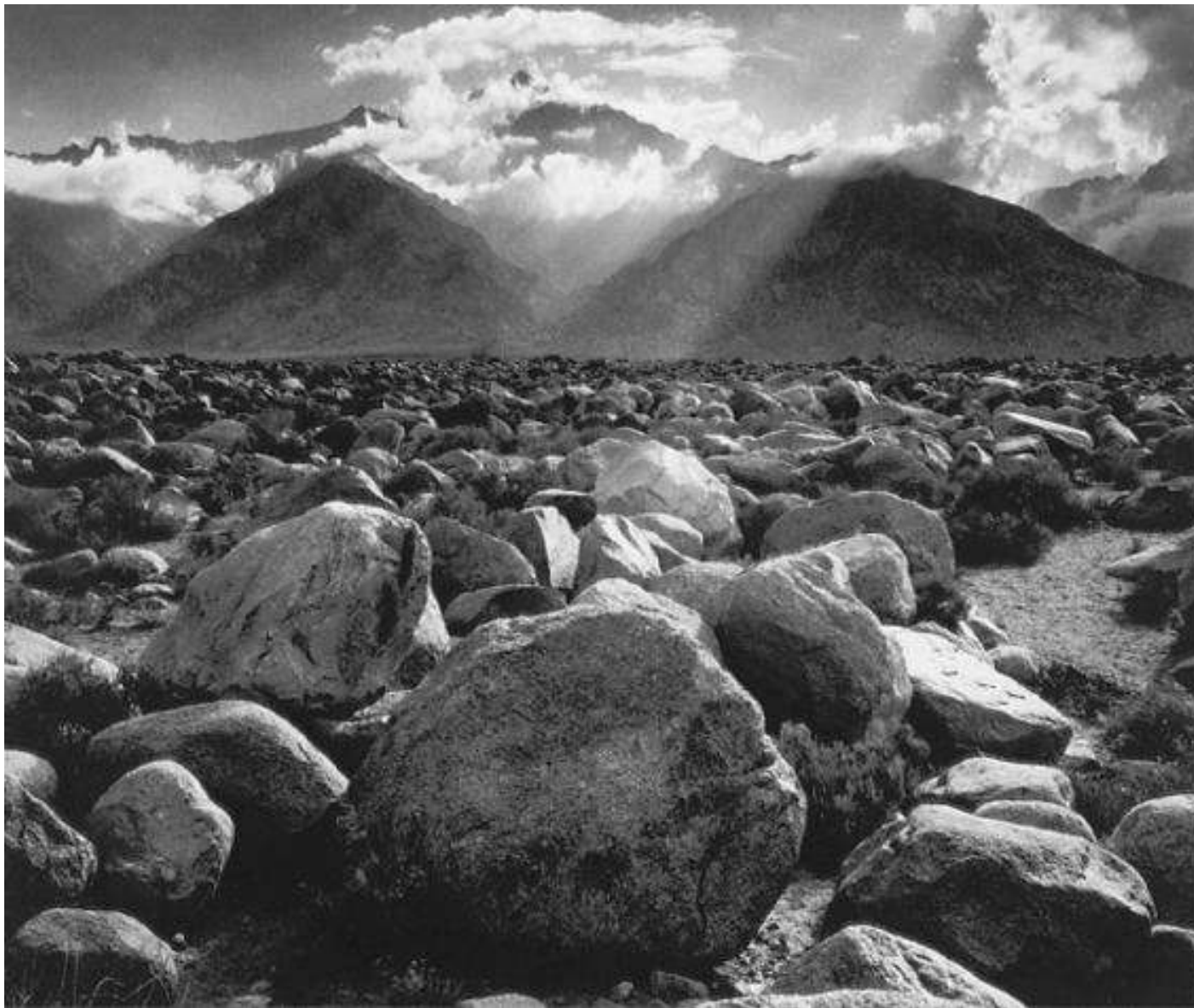


**"The Tetons - Snake River"**

**By Ansel Adams, Wyoming, 1942**

National Archives and Records

Administration, Records of the National Park Service



**Mount Williamson - the Sierra Nevada,  
from Manzanar, California  
1945**



**Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Tsurutani and baby Bruce, Manzanar Relocation Center, California, 1943**

**His book *Born Free and Equal* (1944) was an effort to aid Japanese Americans incarcerated in "relocation camps" during World War II.**

## Photographic books

- *America's Wilderness,*
- *\*California, Yosemite,*
- *\*The National Park Photographs,*
- \*Photographs of the Southwest,*
- \*Ansel Adams: In Color,*
- \*Our National Parks,.*
- \*Ansel Adams: Classic Images,*
- \*These We Inherit: The Parklands of America, with Nancy Newhall,.*
- \*This is the American Earth, with Nancy Newhall,.*

## Technical books

- \*The Camera, .*
- \*The Negative,.*
- \*The Print, .*
- \*Examples: The Making of 40 Photographs*

**He also wrote an autobiography  
and was featured in a video about his life  
and his work..**

**He won three Guggenheim grants  
to photograph the national parks  
(1944--58**



<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5893>



**Moonrise Hernandez, Hernandez, New Mexico 1941**



In 1941 Ansel Adams was commissioned to photograph the Grand Canyon for a mural for the Department of the Interior. With the escalation of World War 2 the project was suspended . But before it's abrupt ending Ansel had managed to create 224 images including several from the canyon in 1942



**Ansel Adams  
Grand Canyon series 1941-42**



**Ansel Adams  
Grand Canyon series 1941-42**

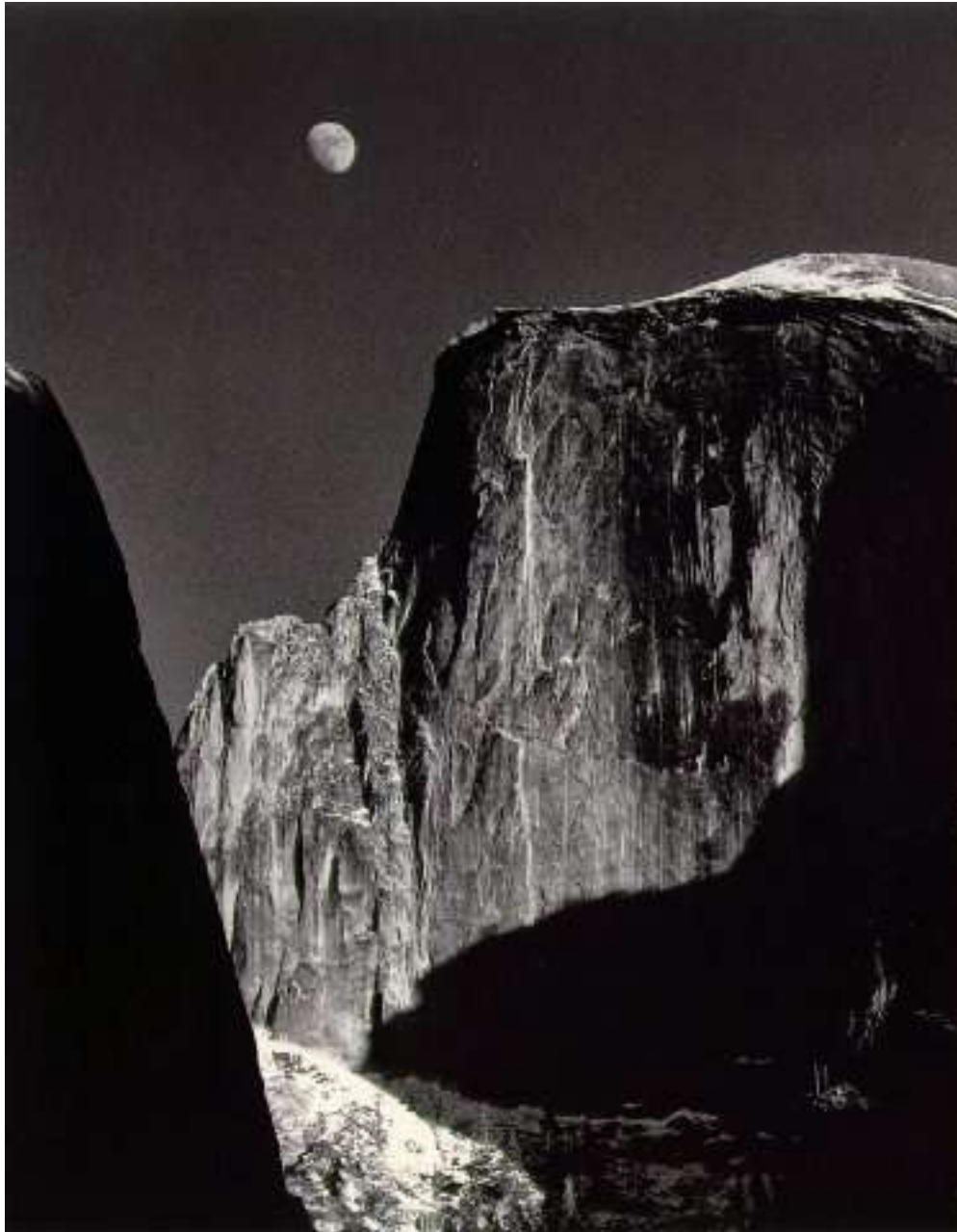


**Ansel Adams**  
**Grand Canyon series 1941-42**





**Hoover Dam, once known as Boulder Dam, is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Arizona and Nevada. When completed in 1936, it was both the world's largest hydroelectric power generating station and the world's largest concrete structure. It was surpassed in both these respects by the Grand Coulee Dam in 1945. It is currently the world's 38th-largest hydroelectric generating station. In this image: Hoover Dam by Ansel Adams (1942).**



**Ansel Adams  
Moon and Half Dome,  
Yosemite Valley  
1960**



**He donated his negatives to the University of Arizona.**

**1984 - Dies April 22 of heart failure aggravated by cancer.**

**Ansel Adams was a masterful photographer and a lifelong conservationist (a person who works to preserve and protect the environment) who encouraged understanding of, and respect for, the natural environment. Although he spent a large part of his career in commercial photography, he is best known for his photographs of landscapes.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zxancgfDVg>

**Ansel Adams: Photography With Intention**

In 1980 Jimmy Carter awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

## INTERPRETING PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are the result of aesthetic, social, political, personal, and cultural influences on the artist. What are your photographs about?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT-G42cskH4>

**Photography Visualization: Advice by Ansel Adams**