

# OFFICIAL IMAGES:

## *New Deal Photography*



*J.T. Mitchell/A Pulaski County, Arkansas, cotton grower votes in the cotton marketing referendum, December 10, 1938.*

APRIL 6 THROUGH MAY 5, 1991

## OFFICIAL IMAGES:

Documentary photography came of age during the Depression, and to many Americans, pictures of dust storms, migrants, and struggling farmers epitomize the era.

**Official Images: New Deal Photography** introduces exciting documentary photographs recorded during the 1930s by government photographers. Some will be familiar, such as those by Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, and Russell Lee from the Farm Security Administration files. Material drawn from four other agencies — The Civilian Conservation Corps, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Works Progress Administration, and the National Youth Administration — greatly expand the scope of New Deal Photography.

Farmers, children, older Americans, striking workers, and young men and women working in agency programs — these images capture hardship and hope alike. In viewing a cross-section of both rural and urban America, the exhibition also raises important questions about the use of photographs and the portrayal of blacks and women.

**Official Images** was organized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and travels under the auspices of SITES, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. A catalogue co-authored by Pete Daniel, Merry A. Foresta, Maren Strange, and Sally Stein is available for purchase at the Gallery.

The Sordoni Art Gallery Hours are 12 to 5 PM daily and until 9 PM Thursday evenings.

## FILM SERIES:

**April 11: *The Land* (1941)**

This film presents a deeply-felt portrayal of American agriculture during the Depression.

**April 18: *The Plow that Broke the Plains* (1936)**

This film depicts the social and economic history of the Great Plains from the settlement of prairies by cattlemen and farmers through the World War I boom to drought and the Depression. Photography by Paul Strand.

**April 25: *Power and the Land* (1940)**

This film tells the story of a typical family farm before and after electrification. It shows the formation of an electrical cooperative by a farm group and illustrates the savings and benefits brought by electricity.

**May 2: *The River* (1937)**

This film traces life in the Mississippi River Valley during the last 150 years. The consequences of share-cropping, soil exhaustion, unchecked erosion, and floods are shown. It concludes with scenes of regional planning, TVA development, and correlated federal efforts.

All films will be shown Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the Media Room of the Wilkes University Farley Library; they are from the National AudioVisual Center of the National Archives.



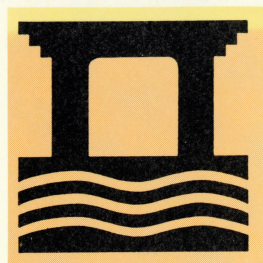
Photographer unknown/Betty Maron poses in a welder's "jeep," September, 1941.

**APRIL**

						<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>						

**MAY**

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**SORDONI ART GALLERY**

**150 SOUTH RIVER STREET/WILKES-BARRE/PENNSYLVANIA/18766-0001**