

15a. American Landscape, 1930



I. Related Documents from the National Archives

Note: To access documents from the National Archives Catalog:

- a) Visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/> and enter the Identifier # OR
- b) Click on the link provided and Select the “Digital Copies” tab.

Ansel Adams Photographs of National Parks and Monuments, *compiled 1941 - 1942, documenting the period ca. 1933 - 1942*

National Archives Identifier 519830

<http://www.archives.gov/research/ansel-adams/>

Paintings of the Antarctica Peninsula, *compiled ca. 1969 - ca. 1969*

National Archives 5082150

<http://arcweb.archives.gov/arc/action/ExternalIdSearch?id=5082150>

(Note: Click on Includes 19 items in ARC to access all images)

Pictures of American Cities

<http://www.archives.gov/research/american-cities/>

DOCUMERICA: The EPA's Program to Document Subjects of Environmental Concern

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2009/spring/documerica.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/environment/documerica-topics.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/environment/documerica-geographic.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/environment/documerica-photographers.html>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnationalarchives/collections/72157620729903309/>

II. Suggested Activities

- 1. Compare and Contrast:** Compare and contrast the American Landscape painting of Charles Sheeler to an urban photograph of the "Pictures of American Cities" or "DOCUMERICA" series. What are the major similarities and differences between this painting and the later photographs (message, composition, etc)? What do you think Sheeler's opinion of these photographs would be? Why?
- 2. Further Research:** Choose an American city from the DOCUMERICA series at www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/environment/documerica-geographic.html. How does the photographer or photographers depict this city through the photographs and his/her captions? What elements of the city does he depict in a positive light? What elements are depicted in a negative light?
 - a. If choosing New York City, how has New York City changed in the nearly 30 years since the DOCUMERICA project? Compare the photographs of the 1970s with current images today. How has it improved? How has it gotten worse?