Revitalizing Central Washington University's Largest Art Collection: 
New Photographics 1971-1987

New Photographics began in the spring of 1971, then under the direction of photography professor Jim Sahlstrand in Central Washington University's Department of Art.

The show initiated from a conversation between Jim Sahlstrand and Don Tompkins, an emeritus jewelry professor, about the lack of competitive photography shows across the nation.

In order to solicit a wider range of photographic artists, Jim Sahlstrand sent out dozens of letters to photographers across the nation, such as Ansel Adams, Jerry Uelsmann, and Susan kae Grant, requesting and receiving feedback.

The first show in 1971 was juried by art faculty and graduate students; 90 artists submitted and 44 were accepted.

In the following years, over 4,000 pieces of work were exhibited until ending in 1987.

New Photographics became an important event not only in the photographic world, but in the art world as well. The exhibition showcased many non-traditional photographic works and encouraged photography to move into the direction of conceptual art.