

News Release



For Immediate Release

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California State Parks Prominent in Library of Congress Photo Exhibit Featuring Renowned Photographer Carol M. Highsmith

California State Parks figure prominently in a collection of photos showcased by the Library of Congress. Captured by nationally acclaimed photographer Carol M. Highsmith, the collection of California photos is one of six current collections exhibited on-line in the Library's *This Is America* project.

Over six months in 2012 and 2013, Ms. Highsmith traveled the length of California to capture the people, places and pulse of the Golden State in *This Is California*. Highsmith's efforts produced glorious views of California's lush valleys and rocky shores, forbidding deserts, remarkable buildings, bountiful fields and stunning state and national parks. Her eye fell often on California's state parks. There are images from more than 35 California State Parks included in the visual compilation, from Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park on the north coast to Salton Sea State Recreation Area in the south.

The on-line exhibit is sponsored by the This Is America Foundation. Included in the six visual-arts collections on the Library's website are those of Civil War photographer Mathew Brady, pioneer female photographer Frances Benjamin Johnson, and Depression-era visual documentarian Dorothea Lange. Ms. Highsmith is acclaimed for her broad work in architectural photography, has had numerous prestigious commissions from the National Park Service, American Institute of Architecture and others, and has published more than 50 books of photography in her career.

Highsmith's work in California was underwritten by the California-based Capital Group, in memory of its late chairman, philanthropist Jon B. Lovelace, a benefactor of the Library of Congress, who lived in Santa Barbara. Highsmith's collection of more than 5,000 contemporary photographs of California will be housed in the Jon B. Lovelace Collection at the Library.

Highsmith's California images can be viewed at www.ThisIsCalifornia.us, and many will soon appear in book form. The 265-page coffee table book is the first current, comprehensive

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visual depiction of the state in a decade. The book's text is by distinguished California historian, Kevin Starr, author of an ongoing-multi-volume history of California entitled "Americans and the California Dream." Dr. Starr received a National Humanities Medal in November 2006.

Now in production, the *This Is California* book of Highsmith-Starr's collaboration will be available for a limited time only. Orders will close on July 31, 2013, so that the book can be printed and delivered by November. The book will sell for \$45.00 on the website, \$40.00 on orders of five or more copies. Elsewhere, including retail outlets, the book will sell for \$55.00. For more information and to order this book, go to <http://californiabook.us/products/beautiful-new-california-book>

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