**Paul Strand**

(**1890 -1976 United States)**

**After attending the public school, he enrolled at the Ethical High School of New York. Here he started to dedicate to photography, thanks to his teacher Lewis Hine. In 1911, he travelled and worked in Italy, France, German and England. Coming back to US, he attended the famous 291 Gallery and could meet Alfred Stieglitz, decisive person for the evolution of the modern photography. In 1916, Stieglitz dedicated an exhibition to him and the last number of the Camera Work magazine. Paul Strand shot a documentary *Mannahatta* with Charles Scheeler. In 1933 he realised *The Wave* movie. In 1935 he visited the Soviet Union and, coming back to New York, he produced a socially useful movies: *The Plow that Broke the Plains* (1936), *People of the Cumberlands* (1937) about the trade unions in the deep South, and *Native Land* (1942). In 1936 Paul Strand and Berenice Abbot founded the Photo League an association of photographers who advocated using their art to promote social and political causes. The Museum of Modern Art in New York organised his retrospective in 1945. His activity and the Photo League entered the sights of the House of Un-American Activities Commitee “witch-hunt” which took a heavy toll among intellectuals, artists, directors and actors. Many of them, and among them Strand, decided to move to Europe. In 1954 he published a milestone book in the photography field: *Un Paese* (A Town), about Luzzera, Cesare Zavattini’s home town. Paul Strand was of the most important photographer of the whole photography story.**