

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 59 A  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 23, 1971

195

PLEASE NOTE: The Frei Otto Tent will be raised and "unfurled" on Thursday, June 3.  
Members of the press are cordially invited to attend and photograph the event. You will be notified of the exact time.

A large translucent tent will float over the Museum Sculpture Garden's Upper Terrace from June 10 through September.

The aerial structure, suspended from a 50-foot "v" shaped mast and anchored to the ground by steel suspension cables, is made of Trevira<sup>(R)</sup> High Tenacity polyester fiber manufactured by Farbwerke Hoechst, Frankfurt. It was especially designed for the Museum as part of an exhibition and related publication devoted to the work of Frei Otto, a German architect internationally known for his dramatic and innovative structures for outdoor theaters, exhibition areas, temporary construction shelters and arenas. The exhibition will be presented in July. Ludwig Glaeser, Curator of Architecture and Design, is Director of the project.

The tent will be previewed on Wednesday evening, June 9, at a Spring Festival the Museum is presenting for the benefit of its program and for the Children's Art Carnival in Harlem. At the Festival, it will be used as a dance pavilion.

The translucent white membrane of the tent filters sunlight, is impervious to ultra violet rays and is water-repellent. At night, illuminated from within, it will look like a giant glowing strange bird hovering over the Terrace.

The structure consists of a prestressed tensile membrane of vinyl-coated Trevira polyester carried by a main mast and two smaller masts held by suspension cables to anchorages in the ground. It covers an area approximately 64' x 36' x 21', or about 2,300 square feet, and at its longest point extends over the Terrace stairs as a visual link between the upper and lower levels of the Museum's Garden.

This particular structure was designed by a former associate of Frei Otto, Richard Larry Medlin, Assistant Professor and Director of The Light Weight Construction Center, School of Architecture, Washington University., St. Louis, Mo. The tent was produced in Germany with funds donated by Farbwerke Hoechst and the manufacturer of the tent, L. Stromeyer and Company, Konstanz. The Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany provided an additional grant for the development expenses and the catalogue.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501.

\*\*\*\*\*