

139

★ JOSEPH CORNELL ★

NOVEMBER 17, 1980-JANUARY 20, 1981

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 10019 956-7501

NO. 54
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: JOSEPH CORNELL

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, New York
November 17, 1980 -- January 20, 1981

SPONSOR: This exhibition has been made possible by generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

DIRECTOR: Kynaston McShine, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS: JOSEPH CORNELL is the last in The Museum of Modern Art's series of exhibitions celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Over 200 constructions and 75 collages will be on display, offering an in-depth view of the work of this major American artist. The exhibition will present as fully as possible Cornell's poetic complex of memories, ideas and associations as they are realized through the universe contained within his constructions, collages and films.

Cornell's work has been characterized as mysterious, elusive and obsessive. In his box constructions -- the intimately-scaled works enclosed behind glass that comprise the main portion of his oeuvre -- seemingly unrelated bits and pieces of everyday life such as mirrors, feathers, glasses, seashells, clay pipes and art reproductions of old masters, combine to form a unique universe. The exhibition, in presenting a broad selection of Cornell's exquisite, evocative and mysterious works, will confirm and illuminate Cornell as a figure of unique importance in 20th century American art.

Among the themes that appear repeatedly in Cornell's work and that will be seen in the works on display are aviaries, habitats, pharmacies, palaces, hotels, constellations, sand boxes, movie stars and homages to ballet, literary and art history figures.

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Two programs of the films of Joseph Cornell, drawn from ten films by Cornell (including films done in collaboration with Stan Brackhage and Larry Jordan) and one by Larry Jordan about Cornell titled "Cornell, 1965", will be shown in conjunction with the exhibition. The programs will alternate on Thursdays and Fridays at 12:00 noon in the Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium at the Museum.

ITINERARY: Under the auspices of the Museum's International Council, a version of JOSEPH CORNELL will travel to: Whitechapel Gallery, London (March 2 -- April 12, 1981); Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf (May 4 -- June 14, 1981); Palazzo Pitti, Florence (July 6 -- September 13, 1981); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (October 12 -- December 6, 1981); and the Art Institute of Chicago (January 23 -- March 21, 1982).

PUBLICATION: Joseph Cornell. Edited by Kynaston McShine. A broad, critical survey of Cornell's life and work. The book will include essays that explore the ideas and contributions of this unique artist: Dawn Ades analyzes Cornell's relationship to other 20th century artists, particularly the Surrealists; Lynda Hartigan provides a detailed biography of Cornell; Carter Ratcliff discusses Cornell within the context of both American and European romanticism; and P. Adams Sitney writes on Cornell's imaginative forays into filmmaking and the writing of scenarios. Introduction by Kynaston McShine. The 296-page book will include 32 color and more than 250 black and white illustrations. \$29.95 clothbound, \$13.50 paperbound.

PRESS

PREVIEW: Tuesday, November 11, 1980. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC

OPENING: Monday, November 17, 1980

October 1980

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.
