

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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JASPER JOHNS CREATES MEDAL FOR LIBERTY WEEKEND

The foremost American artist Jasper Johns, who is currently the subject of a major print retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art, has designed the "Medal of Liberty," commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. It will be presented by President Ronald Reagan to twelve distinguished naturalized citizens at the opening ceremonies of Liberty Weekend, the evening of July 3 on Governor's Island. The medal is a reduction of a 1960 bronze relief, entitled Flag.

JASPER JOHNS: A PRINT RETROSPECTIVE, on view at The Museum of Modern Art through August 19, is the most complete examination to date of the artist's prints. Organized by Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, the exhibition represents twenty-five years of printmaking. Ms. Castleman emphasizes the quality of Johns's creative expression in her selection of 175 lithographs, etchings, silkscreens, and monotypes. Three of his paintings are also included that have a direct relationship to prints of the seventies and eighties.

Commenting on the selection, Ms. Castleman stated, "In our exhibition it is clear that Jasper Johns is the quintessential American artist. So the choice is very appropriate. He is a major creative painter, sculptor, and printmaker, whose medal will go to those who have made the most of the liberty to be creative."

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No. 58

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