

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1986

MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY MORRIS LOUIS EXHIBITION

John Elderfield, director of the Department of Drawings and curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, has written a comprehensive catalog to accompany the MORRIS LOUIS exhibition. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, the catalog is the first full-length critical study of the artist and places his work in the context of the art of the fifties, as well as in the context of modern painting as a whole.

In Morris Louis, Elderfield closely analyzes the artist's three major series: the lyrical Veils of 1954 and 1958-59, the dramatic pictorial solution of the Unfurleds of 1960-61, and the coloristically refined Stripes of 1961-62, as well as transitional works. He discusses the character and sources of Louis's original technique as well as the structure and content of his art.

Louis produced effects of incredible delicacy, subtlety, and control in an enormous color range by pouring paint onto canvas loosely tacked to a stretcher. Although he had achieved recognition by the end of his life, hundreds of his canvases remained stored in rolls, and Louis unfortunately never saw many of them stretched and hung. Elderfield addresses the issues related to the dating of these unstretched paintings, their relationships to each other, and the correct orientation and cropping of the works. A detailed appendix examines such technical issues in greater depth and explores the care and conservation of Louis's work.

Morris Louis represents all of the artist's important series. The 192-page volume with forty-six color reproductions and fifty-one black-and-white illustrations is available for \$40.00 hardbound (distributed by

New York Graphic Society Books/Little, Brown and Company, Boston) and \$18.95 paperbound in the Museum Store.

The exhibition MORRIS LOUIS, made possible by a grant from GFI/Knoll International Foundation, is on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 6, 1986, through January 4, 1987.

* * *

No. 83

For further information, contact the Department of Public Information,
212/708-9750.