

The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release
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KNOLL INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS MAJOR CEZANNE EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art has received a major grant from Knoll International Holdings, Inc., to sponsor A CEZANNE TREASURE: THE BASEL SKETCHBOOKS, an exhibition opening March 10, 1988. Organized by Bernice Rose, curator, Department of Drawings, A CEZANNE TREASURE provides the American public with its first opportunity to see one of the finest single collections of drawings by this modern master. The sketchbooks are on loan from the Kupferstichkabinett of the Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland.

"We are extremely pleased that Knoll International Holdings, Inc. (KIHI), has so generously offered to support the exhibition and accompanying publication for this important and much anticipated exhibition," stated Museum Director Richard E. Oldenburg. "A CEZANNE TREASURE: THE BASEL SKETCHBOOKS will provide visitors with an intimate and unexpected glimpse into the private thoughts and working methods of one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century."

Marshall Cogan, chairman of KIHI, said "I was delighted to be approached with this elegant project and believe that it will be a worthy sponsorship for our companies' foundation."

Dated circa 1858 to 1900, the Basel sketchbooks roughly span Paul Cézanne's entire career. The artist's major themes are represented in these small drawings: landscape, still life, portrait, and figure composition, including bathers. Many were drawn after sculpture and paintings in museum galleries, while others were drawn at night after Cézanne had returned from

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painting outdoors or in his studio. They often juxtapose several themes on one sheet, so that the dates of different sketches on the same sheet may vary.

On view through June 5, the exhibition consists of 114 drawings selected from the entire collection of 152 sheets, seventy of which have drawings on both sides. The drawings originally derived from five major sketchbooks.

The publication, Paul Cézanne: The Basel Sketchbooks, includes an essay by Sir Lawrence Gowing, a preeminent authority on the artist's work. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, the 152-page volume contains 101 plates and twenty-six reference illustrations printed in duotone offset.

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