

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION **JOAN MIRÓ**

DATES October 13, 1993 - January 11, 1994

ORGANIZATION Carolyn Lanchner, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art

SPONSORSHIP This exhibition is sponsored by Argentaria, Corporación Bancaria de España. Support from the Generalitat of Catalonia (autonomous government of Catalonia) is also gratefully acknowledged. Additional support is provided by The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

CONTENT This comprehensive exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Joan Miró (1893-1983), one of the twentieth century's great masters, whose paintings contributed to the creation of a new pictorial language. Surveying the range of his creative activity from 1915 through late 1970, and including works in virtually all the mediums in which the artist worked, this retrospective is the first to attempt an examination of Miró's pervasive tendency to work in series. The exhibition thus provides a unique opportunity to observe the dialogue among objects within series, as well as the interaction of series to series, in a context representative of the variety of Miró's creativity.

In 1970 Miró himself observed, "my life and my work are governed by alternating phases." Ms. Lanchner notes that Miró's serial practice "is key to understanding an art founded on a symbiosis of passionate impulse and calculated design. In Miró the visionary poet and the meticulous craftsman met to create a universe whose central metaphor is passage -- the reciprocal, converse, and ceaseless mutations between the terrestrial and the celestial, the sensuous and the spiritual."

Among the series represented in the exhibition is the cycle of "dream" paintings from the 1920s. Long regarded as pure exemplars of the Surrealist principle of free association, these are shown, for the first time in this country, with their studies, thereby obliging a reconsideration of Miró's practice of Surrealist automatism. Virtually all of the "constellation" series of 1940-41, pivotal works that show the artist at the height of his career, have also been

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brought together for the exhibition. Included as well is a selection of works left in Miró's studio at his death. These paintings, of an often startling expressivity, have never been seen in the United States.

The Museum is devoting all of its temporary exhibition space to this project, which comprises approximately 325 works, including 175 paintings, as well as drawings, sculptures, ceramics, prints, and illustrated books. Drawing on a considerable body of recent research on Miró, **JOAN MIRÓ** permits a fresh view of one of the most important and influential artists of our time.

PUBLICATION

Joan Miró by Carolyn Lanchner. 464 pages. 251 color and 524 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Hardbound, distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and paperbound available in The MoMA Book Store.

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