

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT OF CONTEMPORARY ART FROM ELAINE DANNHEISSER

Donation Includes 75 Works by 28 Artists Representing One of the Largest and Most Significant Gifts of Art in the Museum's History

April 16, 1996. . . . Agnes Gund, President of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that the Museum has received a gift of 75 major contemporary works from Elaine Dannheisser and the Dannheisser Foundation. Comprising paintings, sculptures, prints, installations, and video by 28 different artists, the donation represents one of the largest and most significant gifts of contemporary art the Museum has ever received. The gift includes major works by a wide range of American and European artists, including Carl Andre, Joseph Beuys, Brice Marden, Bruce Nauman, Sigmar Polke, Robert Ryman, Richard Serra, and Cindy Sherman.

Agnes Gund states, "This gift represents a good marriage between a private collector and a museum, reflecting the history of how this museum was founded. I've long admired Elaine Dannheisser's interest and courage in pursuing the sometimes challenging work of younger artists. In her collecting, Elaine has not followed the whims of fashion or the dictates of critics but her own spirit and interest. In making this gift, Elaine follows in the tradition of the Museum's greatest benefactors."

Ronald S. Lauder, Chairman of the Board of The Museum of Modern Art and Chairman of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture, comments, "The importance of private patronage like Elaine Dannheisser's in recognizing and supporting new artists as well as art institutions cannot be emphasized enough. The Museum of Modern Art is a vital and vibrant institution which, as we move toward the next century, will greatly benefit from Mrs. Dannheisser's commitment and enthusiasm."

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Elaine Dannheisser has had a long association with The Museum of Modern Art, and she was recently named a Trustee. She has also served as a member of the Museum's Committee on Painting and Sculpture and the International Council since 1990. Mrs. Dannheisser began collecting art with her late husband, Werner, and has been a collector of important modern works for 37 years. Her collection is distinguished by its holdings of work in virtually every media by both established modern artists and some of the most radical and provocative young artists of the past decade. The collection has also been noted for its balance between American and European artists, which draws connections between parallel activities on the two continents over the last quarter century.

Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, states, "Every collection is an act of passion and construction, serendipity and taste. Elaine Dannheisser has created one of the most important collections of contemporary art in the world with a vision that is particularly rich in the works of some of the most engaging younger artists of the last ten years. Now this remarkable collection becomes part of the fabric and history of The Museum of Modern Art, building on the Museum's strengths and bolstering areas that are currently in development. The Board and staff of the Museum join me in thanking Mrs. Dannheisser and the Dannheisser Foundation on behalf of the public, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of her generosity."

Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, comments, "As a valued member of our painting and sculpture acquisitions committee, Elaine Dannheisser has been a vital part of the Museum's efforts to assemble a superior collection of contemporary art. This donation advances those efforts tremendously, and we are profoundly grateful. Her extraordinary gift strengthens our collection in a way that would have been impossible through the marketplace."

Adds Robert Storr, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, "With daring and a sharp eye for the best of the new, Elaine Dannheisser has gathered a collection of works by some of the most important artists of our generation. The gift significantly expands our holdings of a number of

the most influential artists as the last quarter century, and increases the representation and diversity of works of the last decade by such important artists as Robert Gober, Jeff Koons, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and Mathew Barney.”

Highlights of the gift to MoMA include (see attached for a complete list of the artists whose works are represented in the Dannheisser gift):

- **Bruce Nauman** Drawings, sculptures, installations, neons, and videos
- **Sigmar Polke** Works on paper and canvas from the early 1970s to 1992, including a primary example of his double-sided transparent paintings of the late 1980s
- **Joseph Beuys** An important example of his reliquary vitrines
- **Brice Marden** A 1971 encaustic diptych and *Vine* (1991-93), the Museum's first major acquisition of a web-work painting
- **Richard Serra** *Melnikov* (1987), a massive steel corner-prop-piece (1987); a paint-stick work; and two drawings
- **Tony Cragg** A major floor sculpture and a wall sculpture
- **Robert Gober** Eight works by Gober and a collaborative work with Christopher Wool, which make MoMA the largest repository of Gober's work in the world
- **Felix Gonzalez-Torres** Six works including the billboard he created for his MoMA Projects exhibition in 1992

An exhibition of works from Mrs. Dannheisser's gift is being planned for next year.

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Artists included in Mrs. Dannheisser's gift:

- Carl Andre
- Richard Artschwager
- Mathew Barney
- Bernd and Hilla Becher
- Joseph Beuys
- Louise Bourgeois
- Francesco Clemente
- Tony Cragg
- Gilbert and George
- Robert Gober
- Felix Gonzalez-Torres
- Dan Graham
- Andreas Gursky
- Georg Herold
- Jenny Holzer
- On Kawara
- Anselm Kiefer
- Jeff Koons
- Richard Long
- Brice Marden
- Bruce Nauman
- Sigmar Polke
- Richard Prince
- Robert Ryman
- Richard Serra
- Cindy Sherman
- Thomas Struth
- Michelle Stuart