

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1996

Jasper Johns: Process and Printmaking
October 17, 1996–January 21, 1997

Held in Conjunction with *Jasper Johns: A Retrospective*

The first exhibition to examine the creative process behind the prints of Jasper Johns opens at The Museum of Modern Art on October 17, 1996. Spanning the artist's entire career as a printmaker, *Jasper Johns: Process and Printmaking* features 125 proofs and editioned prints drawn almost entirely from the artist's personal collection. Thirty finished works are presented with a series of proofs leading up to each print, providing a unique opportunity to study how Johns refocused his vocabulary of images in printed art. On view through January 21, 1997, the exhibition is organized by Wendy Weitman, Associate Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books.

Johns's painting process involves constant alteration and feedback. He brings the same approach to his printmaking, but in this medium the proofing process allows the viewer to glimpse the stages of a work's development. Beginning in the early 1960s, he often embellished early stages of his prints with chalk, crayon, paint, and ink while exploring and refining his imagery. These "thoughts, experiments, and asides," as Johns has referred to the working proofs, reveal the evolutionary and painstaking working process behind his challenging art.

"Jasper Johns is considered by many to be the most important printmaker of our time," remarked Ms. Weitman. "Since the processes of artmaking are a central theme in his work generally, a study of the process he employs in printmaking offers a rare opportunity to examine one of his major artistic concerns."

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