

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FROM CLASSIC TO CUTTING EDGE: TWO EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART EXPLORE ARTISTS' TECHNIQUES

New Concepts in Printmaking 1: Peter Halley
September 18, 1997–February 8, 1998

From Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec to Andy Warhol: Exploring Techniques
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An installation of printed works by painter Peter Halley (b. 1953) launches an ongoing series at The Museum of Modern Art. Each exhibition will feature a recent acquisition that challenges conventional notions of printmaking.

In 1996 the Museum's Department of Prints and Illustrated Books acquired its first artworks created as digital files on computer disk. These files, made by Halley, comprise wallpaper and rub-down flowcharts which are fabricated by professional printers whenever a site-specific installation of the work is mounted. For this exhibition, the wallpaper and flowcharts are installed alongside examples of Halley's more traditional prints and one painting. Halley's technology-derived images, together with his startling color combinations, produce a dense, vibrating environment that serves as a metaphor for the electronic saturation that has become part of the information age.

To help demonstrate the computer's use as an artistic tool, an educational area allows visitors to work on a computer and printer programmed with Halley's images. In conjunction

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with the exhibition, Halley has also created a special project on the Museum's Web site, www.moma.org.

Organized by Starr Figura, Assistant Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, *New Concepts in Printmaking 1: Peter Halley* is made possible by a generous grant from Reba and Dave Williams.

From Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec to Andy Warhol: Exploring Techniques
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An exhibition of approximately 70 works selected from the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art reveals how more than 50 artists have used four techniques—woodcut, etching, lithography, and screenprint—to create an extraordinary range of artworks. From Toulouse-Lautrec's lithographed posters, through German Expressionist woodcuts, to Andy Warhol's screen-printed soup cans, stylistic achievements have often been closely tied to an involvement with a particular printmaking process.

Prints by a breadth of artists including Helen Frankenthaler, Paul Gauguin, Käthe Kollwitz, Joan Miró, Edvard Munch, Elizabeth Murray, Pablo Picasso, and Robert Rauschenberg, among others, show how specific techniques provide a variety of new expressive possibilities. Some of the tools and equipment used by artists are also displayed to help visitors understand how the printmaking processes are accomplished.

From Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec to Andy Warhol: Exploring Techniques is organized by Robin Reisenfeld, Associate Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, The Museum of Modern Art.

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