The Museum of Modern Art

MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY JASPER JOHNS: A PRINT RETROSPECTIVE

Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, has written Jasper Johns: A Print Retrospective to accompany the exhibition of the same title.

Because of the exceptional quality of his paintings and prints, Jasper Johns has occupied a central position in contemporary American art for almost three decades. During the fifties he achieved an international reputation as a painter, and in 1960 he began to investigate the techniques of lithography at Tatyana Grosman's Universal Limited Art Editions Workshop. Since then, it is generally agreed that his contributions to the printed art form have been unsurpassed by any living artist.

This publication presents more than one hundred illustrations of the artist's lithographs, etchings, silkscreens, and monotypes. These range from the earliest prints of such common objects as targets, flags, ale cans, and coat hangers, to later, entirely nonobjective prints.

Ms. Castleman's text discusses the evolution of John's printed work in the context of his paintings, sculpture, and drawings. Running parallel to the text are over 100 quotations compiled from both writings by and published interviews with Johns. Ms. Castleman's text offers an informed account of Johns's extraordinary interaction with his printers and his mastery of techniques, as well as rare insights into the complexities of his vision. "Like all enigmatic art," she writes, "Johns's is profoundly

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complicated by its own labyrinthine preoccupation, yet it offers clues; truth is there, and one finds one's own measure of it."

Jasper Johns: A Print Retrospective has been published by The Museum of Modern Art and distributed by New York Graphic Society Books/Little, Brown, and Company. It contains 148 pages and features 106 illustrations (43 color). It is available clothbound ($40.00) and paperbound ($18.95) in the Museum Store.

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