

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NO. 64

RECENTLY ACQUIRED PRINTS TO GO ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM

Prints, illustrated books, and other multiple paper works acquired by The Museum of Modern Art during the last five years will comprise the exhibition PRINTS: ACQUISITIONS 1977-1981, to open to the public on October 15, 1981 in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries. The exhibition, which is organized by Riva Castleman, Director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, will remain on view through January 3, 1982.

Approximately 80 pieces, amounting to less than ten percent of the total number of objects acquired during this five-year period, have been selected for inclusion in the show. Much of it will focus on the current revival of interest in woodcut, a medium which, says Riva Castleman, "seems to parallel certain interests in art now, such as primitivism or basic figurative concerns in which artists want not only to make pictures of figures, but to convey a spiritualistic message as well."

Two major acquisitions will be on view: Der Blaue Reiter, one of two existing copies of a rare edition of the almanac published in 1912 and containing prints by Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc, and a pamphlet cover by Kasimir Malevich, executed in 1918 to commemorate the Congress of Committees on Peasant Poverty, Northern District, which convened in Petrograd

continued/

on the first anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The cover is one of three or four in the United States, and was a 1980 gift from the Lauder Foundation.

Among other prints to be shown are a Jackson Pollock engraving (1944-45), a rare Jasper Johns lithograph titled Alphabets (1962), a few intriguing proofs of Picasso's well-known Bull lithograph, and Scrap Metal Drypoint #2 by Michael Heizer, which measures 29 1/8 x 79 7/8 inches. Also on view will be work by Vito Acconci, Donald Sultan, Jim Dine, Richard Diebenkorn, Howard Hodgkin, Clyfford Still, Susan Rothenberg, and others.

A number of important illustrated books will be on display, including one by Joan Miró called Le Courtisan Grotesque (1974), a 1919 Malevich book, On New Systems in Art, and Traces Suspectes en Surface, the result of a six-year collaboration between Robert Rauschenberg and French writer Alain Robbe-Grillet.

PRINTS: ACQUISITIONS 1977-1981 will be the last exhibition to take place in the present Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints before the installation in 1983 of the new galleries designed exclusively for the Museum's Print Collection.

September 1981

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director (212) 956-2648 or Pamela Sweeney, 956-7501, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019
