

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1989

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 5

October 26, 1989 - January 9, 1989

The Museum of Modern Art opens the fifth exhibition in its annual NEW PHOTOGRAPHY series on October 26, 1989, featuring work by Vincent Borrelli, Mike Mandel, and Thomas Florschuetz. Organized by Lisa Kurzner, The Newhall Fellow in the Department of Photography, NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 5 presents work by artists who use innovative color technology to offer fresh approaches to the photographic medium.

This exhibition is supported by a generous grant from Springs Industries, Inc., and is part of the Springs of Achievement Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art.

Vincent Borrelli (b. 1960), who lives in Massachusetts, travels throughout the United States photographing folk art sites created by "outsider" artists--those whose intensely personal work stands outside the art establishment. His subjects include religious still lifes, totems, murals, and decorated car interiors. In his densely detailed scenes, the artist preserves the rich iconography of American popular culture. Borrelli's use of strong strobe flash flattens the images and at the same time evokes the magical element of the settings.

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Thomas Florschuetz (b.1960) was born in East Germany and currently lives in West Berlin. Since 1982 he has used his body as the subject in abstract photographic works. Recently, Florschuetz began a series of large-scale diptychs and triptychs of highly magnified fragments of his hands and face. These arrangements, combined into organic forms that defy description as portraiture, evoke both horrific and seductive associations.

California artist Mike Mandel (b. 1950) recently completed a ten-year project of time and motion photographs inspired by the photographic efficiency studies of Frank Gilbreth made earlier this century. Using long exposure time, Mandel tracks the movements of his subjects through the patterns traced by colored lights attached to their bodies. His images, such as a woman wrapping sandwiches and a man watching television, challenge the notion of the traditional photographic scientific document. The vibrant color and lyrical patterns in these pictures counteract the series' scientific aura, while the eclectic variety of activities provides a humorous tone.

Devoted to recent work that is not yet widely known, the NEW PHOTOGRAPHY series was introduced in 1985 with an exhibition of work by Zeke Berman, Antonio Mendoza, Judith Ross, and Michael Spano. NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 2 (1986) featured the work of Mary Frey, David Taverner Hanson, and Philip Lorca diCorcia. NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 3 (1987) presented photographs by

Paul Graham, Barbara Norfleet, and Thomas Roma. NEW
PHOTOGRAPHY 4 (1988) featured works by Patrick Faigenbaum,
Reagan Louie, and Michael Schmidt. The series has been
underwritten by Springs Industries, Inc. since 1986.

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