

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

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sixty drawings by 30 American artists who were friends and associates of the late Frank O'Hara, poet and Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, will go on view in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries on December 5. The drawings were made as illustrations for In Memory of My Feelings, a selection of Frank O'Hara's poems just published by the Museum as a memorial volume. The drawings have been donated by the artists to the Museum's Illustrated Book Collection.

Directed by the poet Bill Berkson, who edited the book, and Riva Castleman, Assistant Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints, FRANK O'HARA/IN MEMORY OF MY FEELINGS will be on view at the Museum through January 28, 1968.

Representing diverse generations and styles, the artists selected include Robert Motherwell and Reuben Nakian (whose retrospective shows at The Museum of Modern Art Frank O'Hara directed), Willem de Kooning, Newman, Guston, and Frankenthaler; Rivers, Rauschenberg, and Johns; Oldenburg, Marisol, and Lichtenstein.

Forty-six original drawings reproduced in the book as well as the actual printed pages are on view in the exhibition. Each artist was assigned a poem to illustrate as he saw fit. Preliminary layouts of the type pages were prepared in advance by the book's designer, Susan Draper Tundisi, and the artists were permitted to work anywhere on the page they wanted, even under the printed poem itself. The artists were given translucent plastic sheets on which to draw, either in black or sepia, or both. Placing the sheets over the layouts, the artists indicated how the drawings would relate to the margins and the type. The artists could use any medium that would hold or be fixed on the plastic surfaces -- pencil, ink, charcoal, plastic-based paints, collage, transfer-rubbings, etc. In many cases, the artists made preliminary studies in other media or several versions of their drawings on the sheets themselves. These studies and alternative versions are also included in the show.

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"It was decided that the best way the Museum might honor Frank O'Hara, after his sudden death, would be the publication of a book of his poems decorated by the plastic artists with whom he was associated," states René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, in his preface to In Memory of My Feelings. "This is that book, a homage to the sheer poetry -- in all guises and roles -- of the man."

Frank O'Hara was born in 1926, graduated from Harvard University in 1950, and joined the Museum staff two years later. He resigned in 1953 to devote himself to creative writing and rejoined the Museum to organize exhibitions for the Circulating Exhibitions program in 1955. In 1960 he was appointed Assistant Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and became Associate Curator in 1965, a position he held until his death in an accident on July 25, 1966. In addition to the shows he directed at the Museum and for circulation in this country, Mr. O'Hara organized many exhibitions for the International Program, including a major retrospective devoted to David Smith, and at the time of his death, he was working on a major exhibition of Jackson Pollock's work.

Mr. O'Hara studied English and creative writing at the University of Michigan, receiving an M.A. and the Avery Hopwood Award for Poetry in 1951. In 1956 he took a leave of absence from the Museum to accept a one-semester fellowship as playwright-in-residence at the Poet's Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His published volumes of poetry include: A City Winter and Other Poems, Meditations in an Emergency, Second Avenue, Odes, Lunch Poems, and Love Poems (Tentative Title). Mr. O'Hara was associated with several art magazines and was the author of a number of exhibition catalogues published by the Museum.

In order to indicate the range of Frank O'Hara's presence as a poet and an animator of the artistic community, the exhibition includes many documentary photographs taken during the years he spent in New York, as well as some of his collaborations with other artists in printmaking, such as Stones (with Larry Rivers) and Skin with O'Hara Poem (with Jasper Johns). "In Memory of My Feelings should be considered a posthumous extension of the many such collaborations during his lifetime," Mr. Berkson says.

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To demonstrate the reproduction process used for In Memory of My Feelings, the exhibition isolates Claes Oldenburg's studies and final drawings for the poem "Image of the Buddha Preaching" as well as the negatives and plates used in printing his work. Ordinarily, such drawings have to be photographed through a "halftone screen," which breaks up the image into a pattern of minute dots of varying size; inevitably, some detail and contrast are lost. However, since the homogeneous plastic material is not, like paper, made of crushed fibers, light is conducted through it without distortion. Thus when the plastic is brought into direct contact with a sheet of photographic film and exposed to light, it produces a film negative that captures virtually all the subtle tonalities of the original.

The negative is placed in contact with the light-sensitive surface of an aluminum lithographic printing plate, mounted over a cylinder on a printing press, the image is then transferred, or "offset," onto a second cylinder which in turn transfers it to paper.

The poems for In Memory of My Feelings were set in Times Roman by The Composing Room, Inc. The book was printed by Crafton Graphics Company, Inc., on Mohawk Superfine Smooth paper and bound by Russell-Rutter, Inc. The memorial edition limited to 2,500 numbered copies is published in an unbound, boxed portfolio. The price is \$25.00 (all profits from the sale of the volume are to be donated to the Frank O'Hara Memorial Foundation for grants-in-aid to young writers). Mrs. Walter Granville Smith, the late Frank O'Hara's sister and Executrix of his estate, granted permission for the publication of the poems.

The contributing artists are: Nell Blaine, Norman Bluhm, Joe Brainard, John Button, Giorgio Cavallon, Allan D'Arcangelo, Marisol, Helen Frankenthaler, Jane Freilicher, Michael Goldberg, Philip Guston, Grace Hartigan, Al Held, Jasper Johns, Matsumi Kanemitsu, Alex Katz, Elaine de Kooning, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Alfred Leslie, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Mitchell, Robert Motherwell, Reuben Nakian, Barnett Newman, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, Niki de Saint Phalle, and Jane Wilson.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, and Patricia B. Kaplan, Associate, Press Services, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.

FRANK O'HARA/IN MEMORY OF MY FEELINGS

December 5, 1967 - January 28, 1968

Wall Label

This exhibition offers a selection of original drawings contributed by thirty American artists for In Memory of My Feelings, as well as the actual pages of the book for which these drawings were intended.

A particular poem by Frank O'Hara was assigned each artist to illustrate as he saw fit. Preliminary layouts of the type pages were prepared in advance by the book's designer; the artists were permitted to work anywhere on the page they wanted, even under the type of the poem itself.

The artists drew on translucent plastic sheets: In the photographic transfer from original to lithographic plate, this material affords extraordinary autographic fidelity. The artists could use any medium that would hold or be fixed on the plastic surfaces -- pencil, ink, charcoal, plastic-based paints, collage, transfer-rubbings, etc.

In many cases, the artists made preliminary studies in other media, or several versions of their drawings on the sheets themselves; thus, the exhibition contains many more drawings than were reproduced in the book.

The book itself was designed by Susan Draper Tundisi. The poems were set in Times Roman by The Composing Room, the book printed by Crafton Graphic Company and bound by Russell-Rutter, all of New York. The paper is Mohawk Superfine Smooth. The edition is limited to 2,500 copies.

In order to indicate the range of Frank O'Hara's presence as a poet and animator of the artistic community, there are included in the exhibition a number of documentary photographs taken during his fifteen-odd years in New York, and, also, some of his collaborations with other artists in printmaking. In Memory of My

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Feelings should be considered a posthumous extension of the many such collaborations during his lifetime.

Acknowledgments must be made particularly to Mrs. Walter Granville Smith, the late Frank O'Hara's sister and Executrix of his estate, for granting permission for the publication of all the poems in the book, and to all the artists who participated in the collaboration and who have so generously given their original drawings to the Illustrated Book Collection of The Museum of Modern Art.

Bill Berkson

The Museum of Modern Art

1 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

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FRANK O'HARA/IN MEMORY OF MY FEELINGS

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

December 5, 1967 - January 28, 1968

Checklist

In Memory of My Feelings by Frank O'Hara, edited by Bill Berkson. New York, The Museum of Modern Art, 1967. 30 poems decorated with 46 drawings reproduced by offset lithography.

NOTE: The following drawings for In Memory of My Feelings are gifts of the artists to the Illustrated Book Collection of The Museum of Modern Art. Drawings executed for the book but not used are so indicated. Unless otherwise noted, all works are on translucent plastic and the sheet dimensions are 14" high by 11" wide.

BLAINE, Nell. American, born 1922

1. Illustration for Poem (to Donald M. Allen). (1967). Crayon, brush and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.1a-b.

BLUHM, Norman. American, born 1920

2. Illustration for Naphtha. (1967). Acrylic, on two sheets. 2202.67.2a-b.

BRAINARD, Joe. American, born 1942

3. Illustration for Blocks. (1967). Pen, brush and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.6a-b.

BUTTON, John. American, born 1929

4. Illustration for Music. (1967). Pencil, on three sheets. 2202.67.7a-b-c.

CAVALLON, Giorgio. American, born Italy 1904

5. Illustration for Variations on Pasternak's "Mein Liebchen, was willst du noch mehr?" (1967). Crayon. 2202.67.8.

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D'ARCANGELO, Allan. American, born 1930

6. Illustration for Poem ("Khrushchev..."). (1967). Decals, pencil, pen and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.12a-b.

FRANKENTHALER, Helen. American, born 1928

7. Illustration for Poem ("Hate is only one..."). (1967). Gouache. 2202.67.13.

FREILICHER, Jane. American, born 1924

8. Illustration for Poem V(F)W. (1967). Pencil, on two sheets. 2202.67.17a-b.

GOLDBERG, Michael. American, born 1924

- 9-10. Two illustrations for Rhapsody. (1967). Charcoal. 2202.67.18 and 2202.67.19.

GUSTON, Philip. American, born Canada of Russian parents 1913

- 11-13 Six illustrations for Ode to Michael Goldberg ('s Birth and Other Births).
13a-c
(1967). Brush and ink. 2202.67.20, 2202.67.21, 2202.67.22, 2202.67.23, 2202.67.24 and 2202.67.25 (Mathews 699).
14. Unpublished illustration for Ode to Michael Goldberg ('s Birth and Other Births). (1967). Brush and ink. 2202.67.26.

HARTIGAN, Grace. American, born 1922

15. Illustration for The Day Lady Died. (1967). Crayon, brush and ink. 2202.67.36 (Mathews 703).
16. Illustration for The Day Lady Died. (1967). Brush and ink. 2202.67.37.

HELD, Al. American, born 1928

17. Illustration for Second Avenue. (1967). Gouache, on two sheets, 14 x 11" and 14 x 7 1/4". 2202.67.38a-b.
18. Illustration for Second Avenue. (1967). Gouache, on two sheets, 12 1/8 x 9 1/8" and 11 7/8 x 9 1/8". 2202.67.39a-b.

JOHNS, Jasper. American, born 1930

19. Illustration for In Memory of My Feelings. (1967). Graphite, brush and ink, on two sheets, 12 1/2 x 19" and 14 x 11". 2202.67.40a-b.

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JOHNS, Jasper (cont'd)

20. Illustration for In Memory of My Feelings. (1967). Graphite, brush and ink, 18 x 23 3/4". 2202.67.41 (Mathews 710)

KANEMITSU, Matsumi. American, born 1922

21. Illustration for Song. (1967). Brush, pen and ink. 2202.67.42 (Mathews 700).
22. Unpublished illustration for Song. (1967). Brush, pen and ink. 2202.67.43.

KATZ, Alex. American, born 1927

23. Illustration for Jane Awake. (1967). Pencil, on two sheets, 11 x 14" each. 2202.67.46a-b.

de KOONING, Elaine. American, born 1920

24. Illustration for On the Way to the San Remo. (1967). Charcoal, brush and ink. 2202.67.47 (Mathews 702).
25. Unpublished illustration for On the Way to the San Remo. (1967). Brush and ink. 2202.67.48.
26. Unpublished illustration for On the Way to the San Remo. (1967). Charcoal, brush and ink. 2202.67.49.

de KOONING, Willem. American, born The Netherlands 1904

- 27-29. Three illustrations for Ode to Willem de Kooning. (1967). Charcoal. 2202.67.53, 2202.67.54 (Mathews 706), and 2202.67.55.
30-37. Eight unpublished illustrations for Ode to Willem de Kooning. (1967). Charcoal. 2202.67.56 (Mathews 708), 2202.67.57 (Mathews 707), and 2202.67.58-63.

KRASNER, Lee. American, born 1909

38. Illustration for Poem ("Light clarity..."). (1967). Ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.71a-b.

LESLIE, Alfred. American, born 1927

39. Illustration for Poem ("The eager note..."). (1967). Pencil, brush, pen and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.73a-b.

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LICHTENSTEIN, Roy. American, born 1923

- 40. Illustration for Romanze, or the Music Students (1967). Pencil and felt pen.
2202.67.74.
- 41. Illustration for Romanze, or the Music Student. (1967). Felt pen.
2202.67.75 (Mathews 712).

MARISOL (Marisol Escobar). Venezuelan, born France 1930. In U.S.A. since 1950

- 42. Illustration for Chez Jane. (1967). Pencil, on two sheets. 2202.67.76a-b.
(Mathews 697).

MITCHELL, Joan. American, born 1926

- 43. Illustration for Meditations in an Emergency. (1967). Crayon, on two sheets. 2202.67.77a-b.

MOTHERWELL, Robert. American, born 1915

- 44. Illustration for Poem (to James Schuyler). 1967. Brush and ink. 2202.67.80
(Mathews 704).

NAKIAN, Reuben. American, born 1897

- 45. Illustration for Ann Arbor Variations. (1967). Brush and ink, on two sheets.
2202.67.81a-b.

NEWMAN, Barnett. American, born 1905

- 46. Illustration for Sleeping on the Wing. 1967. Crayon. 2202.67.82 (Mathews 698).

OLDENBURG, Claes. American, born Sweden 1929

- 47. Illustration for Image of the Buddha Preaching. (1967).
Pencil, colored pencil and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.83a-b.
- 48. Study for Dropped Cup of Coffee, preliminary drawing for Image of the Buddha Preaching. 1967. Pencil, colored pencil, pastel and wash, on paper, 30 1/8 x 22 1/4". 2217.67 (Mathews 701)

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RAUSCHENBERG, Robert. American, born 1925

49. Illustration for A Step Away from Them. (1967). Watercolor and frottage, on two sheets. 2202.67.86a-b.
50. Illustration for A Step Away from Them. (1967). Watercolor. 2202.67.87.

RIVERS, Larry. American, born 1923

- 51-53. Three illustrations for For the Chinese New Year & for Bill Berkson. (1967). Pencil, 19 x 25". 2202.67.87, 2202.67.88 (Mathews 709), and 2202.67.89 (Mathews 772).

de SAINT PHALLE, Niki. American, born France 1930

- 54-55. Two illustrations for To the Film Industry in Crisis. (1967). Brush, pen and ink. 2202.67.90 (Mathews 705) and 2202.67.92.
56. Illustration for To the Film Industry in Crisis. (1967). Pencil, brush and ink. 2202.67.91.
57. Unpublished illustration for To the Film Industry in Crisis. (1967). Pencil. 2202.67.93.

WILSON, Jane. American, born 1924

58. Illustration for Ode. (1967). Pen and ink, on two sheets. 2202.67.94a-b.
59. Illustration for Ode. (1967). Pen and ink. 2202.67.95.
60. Unpublished illustration for Ode. 1967. Pen and ink. 2202.67.96.

NOTE: The following prints incorporate poems by Frank O'Hara and were executed by each artist in collaboration with the poet. In the dimensions given height precedes width.

JOHNS, Jasper. American, born 1930

1. Skin with O'Hara Poem. 1963-65. Lithograph, comp. 21 x 33 1/16"
Gift of the Celeste and Armand Bartos Foundation. 72.65 (Petersen 548)

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RIVERS, Larry. American, born 1923
and
O'HARA, Frank. American, 1926-1966

2. Stones, a portfolio of 12 poems and title-page. 1957-1960 (published 1960).
Lithographs, sheet 19 x 23 1/4". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Powis Jones.
696.59.1-.13 (Title-page Mathews 711, plates S-17.313-324).

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FRANK O'HARA/IN MEMORY OF MY FEELINGS

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

December 5, 1967 - January 28, 1968

Frank O'Hara, the poet, was part of the community of artists who are giving form to the issues, tensions, and release of our turbulent time and who, by doing so, are shaping the living fabric of the present.

Frank O'Hara, the art critic and curator, was also part of that group who are called to use judgment and considerable action to make the artists' work accessible to all who may need it.

Frank was one of the very few who are able to combine these two callings seemingly without conflict; on the contrary, his close associations with artists, as an artist himself, gave his work as critic and curator authority and the warmth of personal experience.

Frank was so sure of his own reactions towards works of art that he did not need to be aggressive. He had absolute integrity without self-righteousness.

For the part of my colleagues at the Museum and myself, it is hard to exaggerate what he gave us. This gift can be measured not only by the solid record of exhibitions in which he participated or the publications that he wrote. It is just possible that his being with us and part of us as a group of people striving to do a decent job was just as important, if not more, than his recorded achievements. It is not easy to describe the value of a person's presence--his works, his temper, his being there. But I know that many of us, because of Frank's presence, learned to see better, to communicate their experiences in clearer forms.

With all this mind, it was decided that the best way the Museum might honor Frank O'Hara, after his sudden death, would be the publication of a book of his poems decorated by the plastic artists with whom he was associated. This is that book, a homage to the sheer poetry--in all guises and roles--of the man.

René d'Harnoncourt