

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

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## Advance Information on the WALL HANGINGS Exhibition

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

February 25 - May 4, 1969

**Co-Directors:** Mildred Constantine, Consultant to the Department of Architecture and Design and Special Assistant to the Director, The Museum of Modern Art.

Jack Lenor Larsen, Designer, past Director of Fabric Design at the Philadelphia Museum College of Art, frequent lecturer and juror, recipient of numerous national and international fabric design awards.

**Installed by** Arthur Drexler, Director, Department of Architecture and Design.

**Auspices:** Prepared for circulation by The Museum of Modern Art, WALL HANGINGS was first exhibited in March 1968, is currently travelling, and will continue to circulate after the New York showing.

**Contents:** Approximately 40 hand-woven wall hangings from the 1960s, some based on conventional weaves, often with tapestry interlocking. These and other ancient techniques, more and more often free of the loom, have been reworked into modern idioms. Selected from work here and abroad.

Two- and three-dimensional (some free-hanging) works created from materials ranging from wool, silk, hemp, and sisal to Velon, nylon, synthetic raffia -- and such incidentals as cattails, seedpods, fur, and a zipper.

Experimental and complex techniques achieve the transparent quality and kinetic effect of Moik Shiele's Rectangles of dull and shiny uneven white squares: the mysterious three-dimensional abstraction of Magdalena Abakanowicz' Abakan Noir; or the interesting variation of texture in Sofia Butoymowicz' Black Sun.

Other artists represented include: the Polish weavers Barbara Falkowska, Eva Jaroszynska, Jolanta Owidzka, Wojeech Sadley; the Americans Anni Albers, Thelma Becherer, Dolores Dembus Bittleman, Sheila Hicks, Toshiko Horiuchi, Walter Nottingham, Mary Walker Phillips, Kay Sekimachi, Sherri Smith, Ed Rossbach, Lenore Tawney, Susan Weitzman; the Colombian Olga de Amaral; the Yugoslavian Jagoda Buic; the Swiss weavers S. Carau, Elsi Giauque, and Annemarie Klingler; the Dutch weaver Herman Scholten; the Finnish weaver Eeva Renvall, and the Canadian Mariette Rousseau-Vermette.

**Background:** During the last ten years, developments in weaving have caused us to revise our concepts of this craft and view the work within the context of twentieth-century art. The weavers from eight countries represented in this exhibition are not part of the fabric industry, but of the world of art. They have extended the formal possibilities of weaving, frequently using complex and unusual techniques.

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Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Joan Wiggins, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.