

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## SEVEN BY DE KOONING

SEVEN BY DE KOONING, recent large lithographs by the distinguished painter, will be on view in the Sachs Galleries at The Museum of Modern Art from December 30 through February 28. They are the gifts of Lee V. Eastman and John L. Eastman, and have been installed by Riva Castleman, Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books.

"These seven lithographs (from a group of 20 published in 1971) are a digest of de Kooning's exploration of the medium and reveal that his personal gesture transcends materials and techniques," Miss Castleman comments.

Irwin Hollander, a Tamarind Lithography Workshop master printer, opened his own shop in New York in 1964 and throughout the rest of the decade persistently urged de Kooning to become involved in the medium. In June 1970 the artist finally began work at his studio in The Springs on a series of drawings on transfer paper that he cut up and made into collage compositions. The Marshes and Sting Ray are two lithographs utilizing this transfer technique. Later, encouraged to draw directly on the aluminum lithograph plates in Hollander's workshop, de Kooning produced Weekend at Mr. and Mrs. Krisher. Drawing with tusche on the plates was very much like painting to de Kooning and he tended to overwork areas to the point that the lithographic image -- because of the peculiar chemistry of the medium -- was lost. Wah Kee Spare Ribs is the negative image that emerged when such overinking was washed away, leaving only the work of the first few minutes.

"Speaking of his automatic drawings of the late 1960s, the artist said: 'If it didn't sound pompous, I'd call them Zen.' This remark seems particularly applicable to these prints, in which liquid lines flow as if somehow released from the artist's conscious control," Miss Castleman adds.

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