

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 40
FOR RELEASE:
May 20, 1977

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ART AND ILLUSION THROUGH INTERPLAY OF WORD AND IMAGE AT MODERN MUSEUM

Recent and new work by Los Angeles-based artist Allen Ruppersberg will be on view through July 4 in the first-floor galleries of The Museum of Modern Art. Directed by Nancy Karumba, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, PROJECTS: ALLEN RUPPERSBERG is the 49th in the Museum's continuing series reporting on current developments in art since 1971.

Ruppersberg's previous works in many mediums have wittily and at times poetically explored art, magic, symbolism, nature, and language. In his more recent work, Ruppersberg has been considering issues of art and illusion through the examination of the interplay between word and image, a concern which he further elaborates in the pieces on view at the Museum.

Reading and Drawing, Pages 1-250 consists of five drawings of book spines with their legible titles--The Best Plays of 1965-66, Iventory by Michel Buton, and H.G. Wells' Experiment in Autobiography, among others. Each of these drawings is framed with 50 sheets of drawing paper behind it.

Fragments of Yet Another Unfinished Novel is a work of dispersed photographs and sheets of typed text that tell an elliptical, allusive "story" that the viewer must put together for himself or herself as the eye goes from text to text and from image to image. The fragmentary character of Ruppersberg's "unfinished novel" probes the disjunction between word and image, between reading and perception.

A third work in this exhibition, A Meditation, is composed of overleafed drawings of book spines. Above them, a broken chain of words seems to suggest in an elegiac tone the story of a young woman, of death and insanity, while below the row of books a clutch of contemporary critical catchwords, from aporia to supramondane, float free with question marks.

PROJECTS has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019 Tel: 956-7295; 7501.