

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
May 1986

ROSALIND SOLOMON: RITUAL

July 3 - September 30, 1986

In the first New York exhibition of this American photographer's work of the past decade, The Museum of Modern Art presents ROSALIND SOLOMON: RITUAL from July 3 to September 30, 1986. Organized by Peter Galassi, associate curator in the Department of Photography, the exhibition includes approximately thirty-five black-and-white photographs made between 1975 and 1985.

An experienced traveler before she began to photograph in 1968, Solomon has continued to travel extensively for her work. She has been attracted to geographically and culturally remote places mainly in Latin America and India, focusing especially on their elaborate and visually prodigal rituals. Within her now large and impressive body of work, ritual is a central theme.

"Solomon's photographs of sacred or communal rites are richly descriptive," Galassi writes, "but they are not like the neutral documents of the anthropologist. The nominal function of a particular ceremony is of less interest to the photographer than its psychological or spiritual intensity. For Solomon, the extravagant public theater of ritual is an expression of private feelings and struggles, which she invites--or compels--the viewer to share. That she is able to do so depends on the keenness of her perceptions and the relentless clarity and detail with which she records them."

Rosalind Solomon was born in 1930 in Highland Park, Illinois. She served as a regional director for the Experiment in International Living from 1965 to 1968 and began to photograph on a trip to Japan in 1968. From 1974 to 1976 she studied privately with photographer Lisette Model. She has lived in New York

- more -

City since 1979, when she was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in photography.

Solomon's work abroad has included a series of expeditions to Latin America from 1976 to 1982, and to India and Nepal from 1981 to 1985. She also has photographed extensively in the United States. Solomon's photographs have been included in several exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, including MIRRORS AND WINDOWS (1978) and AMERICAN CHILDREN (1981).

* * *

no. 37

For further information or photographic materials, contact Jeanne Collins or Jessica Schwartz, Department of Public Information 212/708-9750