

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1987

PROJECTS: LOUISE LAWLER

September 19 - November 10, 1987

The Museum of Modern Art continues its PROJECTS series with an exhibition, entitled Enough., by New York artist Louise Lawler. Open from September 19 to November 10, 1987, PROJECTS: LOUISE LAWLER is organized by Cora Rosevear, assistant curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture.

In her installations, Lawler uses photographic images, objects, text, and graphic design. Often appropriating existing works of art, she examines the ways in which our responses may be shaped by relationships between objects and their physical, social, and economic environment. In the brochure accompanying the exhibition, Ms. Rosevear writes that in Lawler's work the "content of the art is defined by the context in which it participates."

For the past ten years, Lawler has been particularly interested in examining how external factors contribute to the meaning of a work of art, including the elements of its presentation, the spectators' awareness of their own role as participants in the piece, and the work's continuation beyond the confines of the immediate exhibition space. She has created exhibitions that consist of selecting and installing already existing works of art, as well as making photographs of installations found in museums, galleries, corporations, and private collections.

Lawler continues to address issues of particular relevance to contemporary art and culture, such as the relationships between context and meaning, questions of authorship and originality, and the commercialization of art.

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"Using a wide range of presentational forms that also include book design and objects as diverse as drinking glasses and matchbooks," writes Ms. Rosevear, "she challenges conventional ideas about works of art and their place in the contemporary world in a unique and compelling way."

Louise Lawler was born in 1947 in Bronxville, New York, and received a BFA from Cornell University in 1969. She has had individual exhibitions at Metro Pictures, New York (1987); Gallery Nature Morte, New York (1985); and the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford (1984). She has also been included in numerous group exhibitions in this country and abroad.

Designed to present recent work by contemporary artists, the current PROJECTS series is based on the Museum's original PROJECTS exhibitions, which were held from 1971 to 1982. The artists presented are chosen by representatives of the Museum's six curatorial departments in a process involving an active dialogue and close critical scrutiny of new developments in the visual arts. The new PROJECTS series is made possible by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lannan Foundation, and J.P. Morgan & Co. Incorporated. LOUISE LAWLER will be followed by ALISON WILDING (November 21, 1987 - February 2, 1988).

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.