

The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release
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PICTURING "GREATNESS"

January 14 - March 29, 1988

An exhibition of photographic portraits of famous artists, ranging in date from 1893 to 1964, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on January 14, 1988. Organized by artist and writer Barbara Kruger, PICTURING "GREATNESS" is part of Contemporary Art in Context, a week-long series of programs at the Museum beginning February 29. Kruger was invited by the Museum to select an exhibition from the collection and the result is a contemporary artist's realignment of historical work.

Ms. Kruger writes, "PICTURING 'GREATNESS' can be about what it means to look like an artist. It can be about eyes and mouths and finery and gesture and how we look from the waist up. It can be about how pose is ambushed by cliché and snapped into stereotype by the camera. It can be about how photography creates prominence, freezes moments and makes history."

The exhibition includes approximately forty black-and-white photographs by such photographers as Nickolas Muray (Claude Monet, 1926), Irving Penn (John Marin, 1947), May Ray (Pablo Picasso, n.d.), Alexander Rodchenko (self-portrait, 1935), Edward Steichen (Rodin and "The Thinker," 1902), Alfred Stieglitz (Georgia O'Keeffe, 1924), and Edward Weston (Diego Rivera, 1924). Other artists include Bill Brandt, Brassai (Gyula Halász), Irwin B. Klein, Arnold Newman, Rigi-André, and August Sander.

Born in 1945 in Newark, New Jersey, Barbara Kruger studied at Syracuse University, Parsons School of Design, and the School of Visual Arts, New York.

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Since the early seventies, she has had several individual exhibitions here and abroad, most recently at the Mary Boone Gallery, New York (1987); the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (1985); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1985); the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford (1985); the Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (1984); and the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1983). Kruger's work has been represented in numerous group exhibitions, including the 1982 and 1987 documenta, Kassel, and the 1973, 1983, 1985, and 1987 biennial exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. She has completed billboard projects in Australia, Ireland, London, and Scotland and, in this country, in Las Vegas, Minneapolis, and San Francisco. Kruger has also written extensively on film and television for Artforum, and is currently coorganizing a lecture series, entitled "Remaking History," at the DIA Foundation, New York. The artist currently lives and works in New York.

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