

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION THE DRAWINGS OF PHILIP GUSTON

DATES September 8 - November 1, 1988

ORGANIZATION Magdalena Dabrowski, Associate Curator, Department of Drawings,
The Museum of Modern Art

SPONSORSHIP Supported by a generous grant from The International Council of
The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENT This is the first major retrospective of drawings by Philip Guston (1913-80), one of the seminal figures of Abstract Expressionism. Although predominantly recognized for his abstract work of that era, Guston was essentially an urban artist for whom the city and its drama constituted the main focus of interest, with the human figure and the human condition recurring as central subjects. Throughout his career, Guston alternated between episodes of drawing and painting, obsessively reworking in his drawings themes and motifs that would ultimately appear in his paintings.

The exhibition includes 153 works on paper surveying the development of Guston's career through its three distinct phases: the early figurative works of the thirties and forties; the linear, black-and-white abstractions of the fifties, for which he became best known; and the last works of 1968-80, in which he returned to figuration. This final body of work explores everyday objects, hooded figures, and other urban imagery as powerful symbols of social and political commentary, while exposing on a more personal level the enigmas of the human psyche. First shown in 1970 to negative critical reaction, the figurative drawings reveal Guston as a singularly vital and formative influence on many of the young generation of artists working in a Neo-figurative idiom.

PUBLICATION The Drawings of Philip Guston by Magdalena Dabrowski. 184 pages. 30 color and 123 black-and-white illustrations. Chronology, exhibition history, checklist, bibliography. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound, \$40.00; paperbound, \$19.95.

TRAVEL Following its New York showing, the exhibition will travel to Museum Overholland, Amsterdam; Fundación Caja de Pensiones, Madrid; the Oxford Museum of Modern Art, England; and Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin.

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