

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PARTICIPATES IN "A DAY WITHOUT ART"

November 30, 1989.....After it closes to the public today at 9:00 p.m., The Museum of Modern Art helps inaugurate tomorrow's "A Day without Art," a national day of mourning and call for action in response to the AIDS crisis. The Museum is conducting a memorial service, In Memoriam: A Gathering of Hope, on all three levels of the Garden Hall. The program is led by actress Jane Smith, widow of sculptor Tony Smith, whose daughter died of AIDS last year. Leonard Bernstein performs his recent work, In Memoriam, for piano and two voices. The service also includes a collective moment of silence and performances by Gretchen Langheld and House Afire, "Blue" Gene Tyranny, and Sons & Daughters.

On December 1, the Museum is showing the HBO documentary film Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt (75 minutes) continuously in the Edward John Noble Education Center.

Philip Yenawine, director of Education at The Museum of Modern Art and co-chairperson of "A Day without Art," stated, "A Day without Art metaphorically suggests that unless we halt the destructive trajectory of the AIDS virus, we shall lose too much. Focusing on the loss of people in the arts and design

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professions (many well before they have matured beyond creative promise), the goal of the effort is to honor the lives of all people who have died and to band together in hope that a community of commitment will ensure support for finding solutions."

Composer and saxophonist Gretchen Langheld and House Afire draw on sources ranging from samba to jazz to Eastern scales. "Blue" Gene Tyranny (Robert Sheff) has composed and, as keyboardist, performed avant-garde music for the past thirty years. Sons & Daughters, an a capella gospel group formed in New York in 1987, is devoted to various African-American, Latin-American, and African music traditions. Jane Smith recently appeared in works by Robert Wilson and John Jesurum.

Common Threads, directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, focuses on five people who died from AIDS and their families and friends who came to terms with the loss through participation in the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, the film features a history of the epidemic as recorded by the news media from 1981 to 1988.

"A Day without Art" was designed to honor and recognize friends and colleagues in the art community who have died or are living with AIDS and to seek greater support and understanding from the general public. Over 500 museums, alternative spaces, performance groups, and university and commercial galleries nationwide are participating. The program is sponsored by VISUAL AIDS, an organization of arts

professionals devoted to facilitating and promoting AIDS-related exhibitions and events. "A Day without Art" is held in conjunction with "World AIDS Day," organized by the World Health Organization.

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For further information about IN MEMORIAM: A GATHERING OF HOPE at The Museum of Modern Art, contact the Museum's Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

For further information about A DAY WITHOUT ART, contact Philip Yenawine, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9780; or Barbara Goldner, Visual Aids, 212/685-0839.