

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION THE PRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS OF ANTONI TAPIES

DATES May 7 - August 11, 1992

ORGANIZATION Deborah Wye, Associate Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, The Museum of Modern Art

SPONSORSHIP Made possible by generous grants from the Generalitat de Catalunya (autonomous government of Catalonia) and the Institute of North American Studies, Barcelona

CONTENT Antoni Tàpies (b. 1923), the celebrated Catalan artist, has generated an extremely important and extensive printed oeuvre. This exhibition will include a selection of approximately eighty of his prints and illustrated books from the late forties to the present.

Tàpies has not only worked with the traditional printmaking processes, but has gone on to enhance these techniques whenever it suited his expressive needs. He enriches the tactility of the printed surface, thereby redefining in paper and ink the scarred, layered, and weathered appearance of his paintings. His works often include embossing, collage, relief, rubbing, tearing, folding, and cutting. Tàpies's imagery, including footprints, handprints, and graffiti-like markings, is an extension of that used in his paintings. With their provocative surfaces, these works achieve the fusion of matter, sign, and symbol that is the artist's hallmark.

Tàpies's conception of the illustrated book is equally innovative. In more than twenty-five volumes, he has achieved a remarkable poetic beauty, while often incorporating unusual structure and design in the book as a whole.

PUBLICATION A catalog, the first comprehensive volume published in English interpreting the artist's printed work, will accompany the exhibition.

TRAVEL An international tour is planned.

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