

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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RICHARD SERRA: AFANGAR ICELANDIC SERIES

November 26, 1991 - March 24, 1992

Richard Serra's most ambitious set of prints to date, made to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Gemini G.E.L., are the subject of an exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art opening on November 26, 1991. Organized by Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, **RICHARD SERRA: AFANGAR ICELANDIC SERIES** is the first exhibition of the project, which consists of more than a dozen heavily encrusted etchings that the artist calls intaglio constructions. The works in the series employ the visual vocabulary of a recent project of Serra's in which he had very tall monoliths of Icelandic basalt placed in pairs along the perimeter of a small island near Reykjavik. In the etchings, made at Gemini G.E.L. in Los Angeles in 1991, densely black forms have been printed on roughly textured paper affixed in the printing process to two layers of Oriental paper. These imposing images loom upward from the lower edges of the sheets, starkly evoking the environment that inspired them. The exhibition continues through March 24, 1992.

Richard Serra was born in San Francisco, California, in 1939. He studied at the Berkeley and Santa Barbara campuses of the University of California, graduating with a B.S. in English Literature in 1961. In 1964 he earned an M.F.A. from Yale University, where he had worked with Josef Albers on his historic book *The Interaction of Color*.

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During the mid-sixties Serra spent a year in Paris on a Yale Traveling Fellowship and a year in Florence on a Fulbright grant, and he traveled in Greece, North Africa, Spain, and Turkey. In 1966 Serra moved to New York, where he had his first solo American exhibition at Leo Castelli's warehouse in 1969. He has been the subject of solo exhibitions internationally, and has been the recipient of several exceptional awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1970), a Skowhegan sculpture award (1975-76), and a fellowship from Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem (1983). In 1985 Serra was named *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by France and received the Carnegie Prize. His sculpture was featured in a solo exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art in 1985.

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No. 80

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9750