

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
December 1991

PROJECTS: ART SPIEGELMAN

December 17, 1991 - January 28, 1992

An exhibition of work by Art Spiegelman, an artist who has made his mark on many aspects of cartooning, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on December 17, 1991, as part of its PROJECTS series. Organized by Robert Storr, curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, **PROJECTS: ART SPIEGELMAN** coincides with the publication of *MAUS II: A Survivor's Tale, and Here My Troubles Began*, the second volume of Spiegelman's two-volume cartoon-strip book that tells the story of his father's experience of the Holocaust. On view through January 28, 1992, the installation includes all the original pages for both parts of *MAUS*, as well as ancillary sketches, preparatory drawings and layouts of individual sections, and source materials used by Spiegelman.

Art Spiegelman has spent over a decade working on *MAUS*, a landmark in the transformation of comic-book art which began in the 1960s. *MAUS* and *MAUS II* follow the tribulations of Vladek Spiegelman from the ghetto to Auschwitz to the Catskills. At the same time, the books also reveal the difficult relationship between the artist and his aging father. In these cartoons, the Jews are depicted as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs. Such animal symbolism has frequently been used to tell fables, but here it serves to make us remember and reconsider harsh historical events and their complex psychological legacy. Immensely powerful in its combination of humor, horror, and pathos, Spiegelman's narrative is graphic in every sense.

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Born in 1948, Spiegelman is cofounder and editor, with Francoise Mouly, of *Raw*, the acclaimed magazine of avant-garde comics and graphics. His work has been published in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, the *Village Voice* and *Esquire*. From 1966 to 1988 Spiegelman worked for Topps Gum Inc., creating Wacky Packages and Garbage Pail Kids, among other products. His drawings have been exhibited in museums and galleries in the U.S. and abroad. A Guggenheim fellowship and a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award are among the honors Spiegelman has received for *MAUS*.

The PROJECTS series is made possible by generous grants from The Bohlen Foundation, The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Edna Goldstaub, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9755.

For review copies of the publication *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale II: And Here My Troubles Began*, contact David Goldberg, Pantheon Books, 212/572-2565.