

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1994

MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES *A CENTURY OF ARTISTS BOOKS* EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a major catalogue to accompany the exhibition *A CENTURY OF ARTISTS BOOKS*, on view at the Museum from October 23, 1994, to January 24, 1995. Written by Riva Castleman, Chief Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, and organizer of the exhibition, *A Century of Artists Books* shows how many of the foremost artists of this century have transformed the book into a modern art form.

In the catalogue essay, Ms. Castleman begins with a discussion of early books and book illustrations; she then traces the development and evolution of the artist's book from Paul Gauguin's *Noa Noa* and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's *Yvette Guilbert* of 1894 to contemporary works from the 1990s by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, George Baselitz, John Cage, and Mimmo Paladino. Using examples drawn from 100 years of modern art history, the essay examines the role of publishers of artist's books, the collaborations between artists and authors, artists as authors, the variety of subjects treated in artist's books, and the physical process of making books.

The 264-page publication is handsomely illustrated with seventy-six color and 148 black-and-white plates. For each of the 140 books presented, notations list the artist, author, publisher, pagination and page size, image

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size, medium, housing, edition, printer, typography, catalogue raisonné, and collection information. Additionally, brief interpretive material includes information on the artist and the author.

Also included are a complete checklist of works in the exhibition, a list of reissued versions of publications in the exhibition, and an extensive bibliography, citing books and articles on the modern art of the book, on the principle publishers included in the survey, and on the artists and authors.

A Century of Artists Books is published by The Museum of Modern Art in a hardbound edition (\$55.00), distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and paperbound edition (\$29.95); both are available at The MoMA Book Store.

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