

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1995

MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES *ANNETTE MESSENGER*

A major catalogue accompanies the exhibition **ANNETTE MESSENGER**, the first Museum retrospective of the artist's work in the United States, on view from October 12, 1995, to January 16, 1996. With extended essays by the exhibition's coorganizers, Sheryl Conkelton, Associate Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, and Carol S. Eliel, Associate Curator, Twentieth-Century Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *Annette Messenger* provides a critical study of the artist's life and the development of her work, including her diverse sources and influences.

The authors, who have worked closely with Messenger in preparing the exhibition and the book, introduce her unique talent and provide a rich intellectual context for understanding her work. In her essay, Ms. Conkelton describes Messenger's work as alternating between a quiet, almost religious reverence and wild, often sexual escapade, conjuring a visiting carnival in which normal life is disrupted and all expectations are turned upside down. In Ms. Eliel's, essay Messenger's diverse sources and influences are brought to light, including the incorporation of Surrealist ideas and issues of social normalcy and morality.

Published jointly by The Museum of Modern Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *Annette Messenger* contains ninety-six pages and sixty-five illustrations (thirty-four in color). The paperbound edition (\$24.95),

- more -

distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and elsewhere by Thames and Hudson Ltd., London, is available in The MoMA Book Store.

Organized jointly by The Museum of Modern Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, **ANNETTE MESSEAGER** is supported in part by generous grants from the AFAA (Association Française d'Action Artistique—Ministère des Affaires Etrangères) and the National Endowment for the Arts. Transportation assistance was provided in part by Air France. Additional funding for the New York showing was provided by the Contemporary Exhibition Fund of The Museum of Modern Art, established with gifts from Lily Auchincloss, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Lauder.

* * *