New to the Modern: recent acquisitions from the Department of Drawings

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Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

Date
2001

Publisher
The Museum of Modern Art

Exhibition URL
www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/166

The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition history—from our founding in 1929 to the present—is available online. It includes exhibition catalogues, primary documents, installation views, and an index of participating artists.
New to the Modern
Recent Acquisitions from the Department of Drawings
This exhibition surveys the Museum's recent purchases and gifts of drawings created over the past sixty years. The drawings in the Museum's collection cover a wide range of materials, and range in size and intention from small and personal to grand and iconic; all, however, are unique, and they generally have paper as their support. The works on view, all acquired over the past eighteen months, exemplify the efforts of the Department of Drawings to strengthen its collection from the second half of the twentieth century at the same high level as the Museum's holdings of works from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Containing over a hundred works by more than forty artists, the exhibition demonstrates the richness of drawing as a means of expressing the most diverse aesthetic visions. Escaping fixed definitions, drawing constantly reinvents itself, sustaining its importance in art and in the Museum's collection.

Some of the new acquisitions bring further depth or range to the representation of artists already in the collection. Two exceptional examples of this kind are Ellsworth Kelly's Line Form Color (1951), a suite of forty drawings and collages, and Willem de Kooning's large charcoal drawing Woman (1965). Both artists lie at the heart of the Museum's collection across departments. Jacob Lawrence's work from the 1940s, similarly, is amply represented in the Museum; Street Shadows (1959) is the first of his later works to be added to the collection. Works by Janine Antoni, Gego, Wolfgang Laib, Robert Moskowitz, and Dieter Roth, meanwhile, are included in the collections of other departments in the Museum, but have not until now been represented in the Department of Drawings. And for a number of artists in the
exhibition, including Kevin Appel, Mirosław Balka, Los Carpinteros, Merce Cunningham, John Currin, Betty Goodwin, Margherita Manzelli, John Morris, Jockum Nordström, and José Toirac, the drawings seen here are the first works in any medium at MoMA.

Organized in a loose chronological ordering, the exhibition begins with works from mid-century and ends with recent works, some completed only in the last year. The reverberations of classic modernism remain central in the works by André Masson, Henri Michaux, Kelly, and de Kooning. Figurative references appear in drawings by some of the artists who matured in the 1960s and '70s—the pastel nudes of George Segal, the cartoonish characters of Jim Nutt and Sigmar Polke, and the hand-marked photographic self-portrait of Chuck Close—but works from this period more often focus on the notational and conceptual uses of drawing, the distillation of abstract shapes, and the use of gestural marks to indicate intellectual processes and imaginings. Examples include works by Sol LeWitt, Robert Smithson, Robert Overby, Martin Puryear, and Gerhard Richter.

Artists in the exhibition who have emerged in the past fifteen years range from well-established figures to others just finding recognition. They come from a broad international spectrum—Belgium, Cuba, Italy, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, among other countries—and from throughout the United States. Their geographical diversity registers the lack of a single center for contemporary art, but despite the variety of their origins, some trends can be identified. While some of these artists have produced strong abstract works, the
overwhelming tendency is toward figuration and representation. Ellen Gallagher, Glenn Ligon, and Kara Walker, all young black Americans, deal with racial clichés and stereotypes. Existential echoes appear in the drawings of Balka, Marlene Dumas, Juan Muñoz, and Luc Tuymans, which subtly reflect on European history through the lens of personal vision. The artists’ group Los Carpinteros and their compatriot José Toirac recall the utopian aspirations and failed promises of the Cuban revolution.

Limitations of space make it impossible to include every drawing the Museum has acquired over the last eighteen months, but only a very few works are absent. The exhibition accurately reflects the level and range of the Department of Drawings’ collecting activity through purchases and the generous gifts of friends and patrons. Exceptional great works, drawings that are important in representing the historical record, and pieces emerging from a broad range of artists, movements, and cultural positions can be seen here. The goal is to represent both singular achievements and the textured and diverse field of modern and contemporary art as it is revealed through drawing.

—Gary Garrels
Chief Curator, Department of Drawings
Exhibition Checklist

All drawings are from the collection of The Museum of Modern Art.

**Vito Acconci**
American, born 1940
*Throw*, 1969
Black and white photographs, painted foamcore, and white pastel on paper, overall: 46 3/4 x 44 1/4 inches (118.7 x 114 cm)
Gift of Thea Westreich and Ethan Wagner in honor of Gary Garrels

**Janine Antoni**
American, born The Bahamas, 1964
*Butterfly Kisses*, 1996—99
Cover Girl Thick Lash mascara on paper, 29 3/4 x 30 inches (75.5 x 76.2 cm)
Purchase

**Kevin Appel**
American, born 1967
*House — South Rotation Red: 1 East*, 2000
Liquid acrylic on paper, 26 x 40 inches (66 x 101.6 cm)
Gift of the Friends of Contemporary Drawing

**Miroslaw Balka**
Polish, born 1958
*Moulting*, 1988
Graphite, gesso, and pine needles on paper, 65 1/4 x 89 1/2 inches (165.7 x 227.3 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Mildred Rendl-Marcus

**Los Carpinteros**
(Dagoberto Rodriguez, Cuban, born 1969; Marco Castillo, Cuban, born 1971; Alexandre Arrechea, Cuban, born 1970)
*Proyecto de Accumulacion de Materiales (Project of Accumulation of Materials)*, 1999
Watercolor and pencil on paper, 46 3/4 inches x 11 feet 7 3/4 inches (140.5 x 3.55 m)
Purchased with funds provided by Sylvia de Cuevas, Leila and Melville Strauss, and The Contemporary Arts Council

**Chuck Close**
American, born 1940
*Self-Portrait*, 1997
Color instant print (Polaroid) mounted on foamcore with tape, ink, felt-tipped pen, graphite, and oil paint on board, 36 x 24 inches (91.4 x 61 cm)
Gift of the artist

**Bruce Conner**
American, born 1933
*23 Kenwood Avenue*, 1963
Pen and ink on paper, 26 x 20 inches (66 x 50.8 cm)
Purchase and partial gift of Achim Moeller in memory of Paul Cummings

**Merce Cunningham**
American, born 1919
*Suite by Chance (Movement Chart II C-D-E Extensions)*, 1952
Blue ballpoint pen and pencil on graph paper, 7 3/4 x 6 inches (17.8 x 15.2 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Barbara G. Fine

**John Currin**
American, born 1962
*Charlie Rose Guest*, 1998
Gouache on paper, 12 x 8 1/2 inches (30.5 x 21.6 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Stafford Brounand

**Los Carpinteros. Proyecto de Accumulacion de Materiales (Project of Accumulation of Materials)*, 1999
Watercolor and pencil, 46 3/4 x 11 7/8 inches (118.6 x 30.2 cm). Purchased with funds provided by Sylvia de Cuevas, Leila and Melville Strauss, and The Contemporary Arts Council

**The Clairvoyant, 2001**
Gouache on paper, 22 1/2 x 16 1/4 inches (57.1 x 41.3 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Michael Lynne

**The Exwife, 2001**
Gouache on paper, 14 x 11 1/4 inches (35.6 x 28.6 cm)
Gift of Oliver Kamm, Linda Kamm, and Lisa Kamm
Lady on the Fence, 2001
Gouache and ink on prepared paper, 11¼ x 8½ inches (28.3 x 20.6 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Dianne Wallace

Agnes Denes
American, born Hungary 1938
Snail Pyramid—Study for Self-Contained, Self-Supporting City Dwelling—A Future Habitat, 1988
Metallic and India ink on film grid, 38¼ x 57 inches (98.4 x 145.4 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Agnes Gund

Marlene Dumas
South African, born 1953
Magdalene, 1996
Ink wash on paper, 49½ x 27½ inches (125.1 x 69.9 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Patricia and Morris Orden

Ellen Gallagher
American, born 1965
Untitled, 2000
Oil, pencil, and plasticine on paper, 13¼ x 10 inches (33.7 x 25.4 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of James Hedges IV

Gego (Gertrude Goldschmidt)
Venezuelan, born Germany, 1912–94
Untitled, 1970
Ink on paper, 29¾ x 19½ inches (75.9 x 50.5 cm)
Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros in memory of Warren Lowry

Betty Goodwin
Canadian, born 1923
Figure/Ladder Series IV, 1996
Oilstick, pastel, graphite, and charcoal on plastic sheet, 18 x 10¾ inches (45.7 x 27.3 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Agnes Gund

Ellsworth Kelly
American, born 1923
Line Form Color, 1951
Forty sheets, eleven ink on paper (1–9, 17, 18), twenty-nine cut-and-pasted colored papers (10–16, 19–40), each 7/½ x 8 inches (19.1 x 20.3 cm)
Museum purchase and purchased with funds provided by Ronald S. Lauder, Werner H. Kramarsky, James Hedges IV, Richard and Kathy Fuld, and other donors and gift of the artist
Woodland Plant, Lake George, 1964
Pencil on paper, 28 x 22 1/4 inches (71 x 56.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of David Teiger

Willem de Kooning
American, born The Netherlands, 1904–97
Woman, 1965
Charcoal on transparentized paper, 6 feet 8 inches x 35 1/4 inches (203.2 x 90.8 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Ronald S. Lauder, Thomas Weisel, Richard and Kathy Fuld, and other donors

Juul Kraijer
Dutch, born 1970
Untitled, 2001
Charcoal on paper, 39 1/4 inches x 9 feet 2 1/2 inches (110 x 280 cm)
Gift of Jan Christiaan Braun in honor of Margit Rowell

Wolfgang Laib
German, born 1950
Untitled, 1983
Oil and pencil on paper, 35 1/2 x 24 7/8 inches (90.5 x 62.9 cm)
Gift of Werner H. Kramarsky in honor of Margit Rowell

Jacob Lawrence
American, 1917–2000
Street Shadows, 1959
Tempera on gesso on board, 24 x 29 1/4 inches (61 x 75.9 cm)
Gift of Ellen Kern in memory of her parents, Lewis and Jewel Garlick

Sol LeWitt
American, born 1928
Untitled, 1992
Pencil on paper, 19 1/2 x 19 1/2 inches (50.2 x 49.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of David Teiger

John Morris
American, born 1965
Untitled, 1992–2000
Ink on paper, 10 1/2 x 7 inches (26 x 17.8 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Sarah-Ann and Werner H. Kramarsky

Glenn Ligon
American, born 1960
Study for Imperfect Painting, 1986
Pencil and colored pencils on graph paper, 8 x 10 1/4 inches (20.3 x 26 cm)
Gift of James and Katherine Goodman, New York

Andre Masson
French, 1896–1987
Invention du labyrinthe (Invention of the Labyrinth), 1942
Pen and ink on green paper, 23 1/8 x 18 1/4 inches (58.7 x 46.4 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of William S. Rubin

Robert Moskowitz
American, born 1935
Ideg, 1987
Pastel on black paper, 39 1/2 inches x 9 feet 4 inches (111 x 284.4 cm)
Gift of Dr. George T. Shea and Gordon Locksley in memory of Marian and John Martin Shea

Lee Mullican
American, 1919–98
For Luchita, 1948
Ink and watercolor on paper, 11 1/2 x 8 inches (29.2 x 20.3 cm)
Purchase

Juan Munoz
Spanish, 1953–2001
Untitled (Balcony with awning and sketch below), 1984
Oilstick on plastic sheet on brown paper, 26 x 18 7/8 inches (66 x 47.9 cm)
Purchase
Martin Puryear. Untitled. 1993. Ink wash, Conte crayon, and tape, 6' 8 1/4" x 54 1/2" (203.8 x 138.4 cm). Purchase

Untitled (Balcony with heavy black vertical line), 1984
Oilstick on plastic sheet on brown paper, 25 1/2 x 19 1/4 inches (65.7 x 48.9 cm)
Purchase

Untitled (Facing Balconies), 1984
Oilstick on plastic sheet on brown paper, 25 1/2 x 18 1/8 inches (65.7 x 46 cm)
Purchase

Jockum Nordström
Swedish, born 1963
Playtime for Dung Hills, 2000
Graphite on paper, 17 1/2 x 24 1/2 inches (44.5 x 61.9 cm)
Gift of the Friends of Contemporary Drawing

The Tomb of the Lonely Soldier, 2000
Graphite on paper, 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches (40 x 29.9 cm)
Gift of the Friends of Contemporary Drawing

Waiting for Beginnings, 2000
Graphite on paper, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches (29.9 x 40 cm)
Gift of the Friends of Contemporary Drawing

Jim Nutt
American, born 1938
Rosie Comon, 1968
Graphite and cut-and-pasted papers on paper, 38 x 25 inches (96.5 x 63.5 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by Ronald S. Lauder

Robert Overby
American, 1935–93
Sketchbook, 1969
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Gift of the Estate of Robert Overby

Sketchbook, 1970
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Purchase

Sketchbook, 1971
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Purchase

Sketchbook, 1972
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Purchase

Sketchbook, 1973
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Purchase

Sketchbook, 1974
Gouache, pencil, and mixed media on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 22 cm)
Gift of the Estate of Robert Overby

Elizabeth Peyton
American, born 1965
Liam, 1997
Watercolor on paper, 10 x 7 inches (25.4 x 17.8 cm)
Gift of Patricia and Morris Orden in honor of Laura Hopfman

Matthew No Smoking, 1997
Watercolor on paper, 12 x 9 inches (30.5 x 22.9 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Patricia and Morris Orden
Robert Smithson. **Spirals.** 1970. Graphite, 9 x 12" (22.9 x 30.5 cm). Fractional and promised gift of Tony Ganz in memory of Victor and Sally Ganz

Danie, Berlin, 1999
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 28 ¾ inches (101.6 x 73 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Patricia and Morris Orden

Spencer, 1999
Colored pencil on paper, 8½ x 6 inches (22.3 x 15.2 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of David Teiger

**Sigmar Polke**
German, born 1941
**Untitlted,** c. 1964
Synthetic polymer paint on paper, 29 x 29 ¾ inches (73.7 x 74.6 cm)
Fractional gift of Anna Marie and Robert F. Shapiro in honor of Margie Rowell

**Martin Puryear**
American, born 1941
**Untitled,** 1993
Ink wash, Conte crayon, and tape on brown paper, 6 feet 8 14 inches x 54 ½ inches (203.8 x 138.4 cm)
Purchase

**Gerhard Richter**
German, born 1932
4.5.1999 (99/26), 1999
Graphite on paper, 8 ¼ x 11 ¾ inches (20.9 x 29.8 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by The Edward John Noble Foundation

4.5.1999 (99/45), 1999
Graphite on paper, 8 ¼ x 11 ¾ inches (20.9 x 29.8 cm)
Purchased with funds provided by The Edward John Noble Foundation

**George Segal**
American, 1924–2000
**Nude,** 1964
Pastel on colored paper, 18 x 12 inches (45.7 x 30.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of David Teiger

**Jim Shaw**
American, born 1952
**Dream Drawing (I had a bunch of junk and art work...),** 1994
Pencil on paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm)
Gift of Howard Karshan, Dorothy Spears, and Martina Yamin

**Dieter Roth**
German, 1930–98
**Untitlted,** 1979
Pencil, watercolor, and pastel on paper, 34 x 23 inches (86.4 x 58.4 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Norman and Norali Stone

**Robert Smithson**
American, 1938–73
**Cross Section of Spiraling Jetty,** c. 1970
Felt-tipped pen on paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Tony Ganz in memory of Victor and Sally Ganz

**Spiral Jetty in Red Salt Water,** c. 1970
Graphite on paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Tony Ganz in memory of Victor and Sally Ganz

**Spindls,** 1970
Graphite on paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm)
Fractional and promised gift of Tony Ganz in memory of Victor and Sally Ganz