

More pieces for the puzzle : recent additions to the collection

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

Date

1998

Publisher

The Museum of Modern Art

Exhibition URL

www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/218

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.

More Pieces for the Puzzle

Recent Additions to the Collection

The collection of this Museum constitutes the most comprehensive image of modern art to be found anywhere. In part this is owed to the historical gamble MoMA made early in the 1930s that "new" art was worth collecting. Back then, much of what might have been called "contemporary art" is what we now think of as "classic modernism." Complementing this wager was the Museum's conviction that modern art was not one thing but many. The result is a diverse collection that encompasses works representing many periods, places, movements, and styles, as well as documenting evolutionary and often revolutionary developments in a wide range of media—painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, prints, books, architecture, design, film, and video.

Like a vast picture puzzle, the collection of The Museum of Modern Art achieves ever greater definition as pieces are added, and details complete the already discernible contours of its main compositional elements. Unlike an ordinary puzzle, however, the Museum's collection grows at the edges even as it is being filled around the middle. Modern art is a constantly broadening and diversifying phenomenon rather than a historically fixed one. To describe it accurately, one must therefore be able to focus intently on its central features while cultivating sharp peripheral vision attentive to the ways in which expansion of the puzzle's frame displaces that "center."

At times, a number of related works enter the collection by gift or purchase. On such occasions, the Museum may exhibit these acquisitions as a group. Thus Philip Johnson's recent donation of nine paintings comprising works by Philip Guston, Jasper Johns, Willem de Kooning, James Rosenquist, and Andy Warhol is on view in third floor galleries intermingled with other works by these artists. All the while, item by item, the Museum's various departments are steadily augmenting their holdings with an eye to missing links and unexpected developments. This exhibition draws on that institution-wide effort over the past several years. Included are works by artists never before represented as well as unusual examples of work by some who are otherwise well-known to MoMA's visitors. From chairs, graphics, multiples, and drawings to conceptual photographs, painterly paintings, and the smallest sculpture the Museum owns—a handcrafted fly—this exhibition is just a sampling of the myriad fragments that make up, and ceaselessly remake, the big picture of modernism.

This exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from Susan G.

MORE PIECES FOR THE PUZZLE: RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Artists' Editions for *Parkett*

A selection from the complete set (to date) of 88 prints, multiples, and photographs
1984-1998

Publisher: *Parkett*, Zurich and New York

Riva Castleman Endowment Fund, Lily Auchincloss Fund, and Gift of *Parkett*, 1998

Parkett is a quarterly contemporary art journal published in English and German. Each issue is devoted to between one and five artists, and each of them is commissioned to make an original print, photograph, or multiple to accompany the publication. Often these limited-edition works are bound into a special edition of the magazine. On other occasions they have been created in various formats that complement the dimensions of the journal.

Over the past century a number of influential art periodicals have published original prints by the artists with whom they have collaborated. The editions by *Parkett* are an important recent addition to this rich tradition.

1

Matthew Barney

American, born 1967

Sweet (Bo(l)us) (for *Parkett* 45) 1995

Cast sugar and Viratex epoxy resin on satin ribbon with single cultured pearl

Edition: 70

2

Francesco Clemente

Italian, born 1952

Reconciliation (for *Parkett* 9) 1986

Drypoint

Edition: 100

3

Marlene Dumas

South African, born 1953

The Black Man, The Jew, and The Girl (for *Parkett* 38) 1993

Relief print and lithograph

Edition: 60

4

Rebecca Horn

German, born 1944

The Double (for *Parkett* 13) 1987

Silver-plated brass hammer

Edition: 99

5

Meret Oppenheim

Swiss, born Berlin 1913-1985

Pair of Gloves (for Parkett 4) 1985
Pair of goat suede gloves
Edition: 150

6
Raymond Pettibon

American, born 1957

Justly Felt and Brilliantly Said (for Parkett 47) 1996

Screenprint with manuscript additions and pressed flower

Edition: 60

Monroe Wheeler Fund, 1997

7
Susan Rothenberg

American, born 1945

Bear Skin Rug (for Parkett 43) 1995

Synthetic latex

Edition: 70

8
Franz West

Austrian, born 1947

Pouch for Parkett (for Parkett 37) 1993

African fabric, with metal chain

Edition: 180

[end of Parkett]

9
Mel Bochner

American, born 1940

Continuous/Dis/Continuous 1971-1972

Red and black felt-tipped pens and blue carpenter's chalk on torn masking tape and wall

Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds, 1997

10
Tom Friedman

American, born 1965

Untitled 1995

Plastic, hair, fuzz, Play-doh, wire, paint, and wood

An anonymous fund, 1996

11
Ellen Gallagher

American, born 1965

Oh! Susanna 1995

Oil and pencil on paper collage on canvas

Fractional and promised gift of Michael and Judy Ovitz, 1997

12
David Hammons

American, born 1943

African-American Flag 1990

Dyed cotton

Gift of The Over Holland Foundation, 1997

13

Agnes Martin

American, born Canada 1912. To U.S.A. 1933

Harbor Number 1 c. 1959

Oil on canvas

Gift of Agnes Gund and Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds, 1996

14

David Moreno

American, born 1957

Untitled 1996

Latex, speaker, photocopy, amplifier, cassette deck, cassette tape, and talcum powder

Gift of Agnes Gund, 1997

15

Marc Newson

Australian, born 1963

"Orgone" Chaise Longue 1989

Fiberglass

Mfr: Cappellini S.p.A., Italy

Gift of the manufacturer, 1998

16

Hélio Oiticica

Brazilian 1937-1980

Untitled (from the series *Metaesquemas*) 1959

Gouache on cardboard

Purchased with funds given by Patricia Phelps de Cisneros in honor of Paulo Herkenhoff, 1997

17

Hélio Oiticica

Brazilian 1937-1980

Untitled No. 348 (from the series *Metaesquemas*) 1958

Gouache on cardboard

Purchased with funds given by Maria de Lourdes Villela, 1998

18

Adrian Piper

American, born 1948

Food for the Spirit 1971

Fourteen gelatin silver prints, printed 1997

The Family of Man Fund, 1997

19

Gerhard Richter

German, born 1932. Lives in Cologne

Self-Portrait 1996

Oil on linen

Fractional and promised gift of Ronald S. Lauder and Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds, 1996

20

Bill Traylor

American, 1854-1947

Figure Construction (Woman and Man with Axe) c.1939-42

Gouache and pencil on cardboard

Fractional gift of Charles and Eugenia Shannon, 1995

21

Bill Traylor

American, 1854-1947

Man on Triangle Reaching for Bottle c. 1939-42

Pencil and charcoal on cardboard

Fractional gift of Charles and Eugenia Shannon, 1995

22

Simon Ungers

German, born 1957

T-House 1988-1992

Wilton, New York

Steel and plywood

Agnes Gund Purchase Fund and David Childs Purchase Fund, 1998

23

Kara Walker

American, born 1969

Freedom: A Fable 1997

Pop-up artist's book

Publisher: The Peter Norton Family, Santa Monica, California

Edition: 4,000

Anonymous Gift, 1998

24

Kara Walker

American, born 1969

Untitled 1997

Six etched glass canisters with glass lids

Publisher: The Renaissance Society, University of Chicago

Gift of the Peter Norton Family, in honor of the Friends of Education, 1998

25

Steve Wolfe

American, born 1955

Untitled (Cubism and Abstract Art) 1997

Oil, lithography ink, and modeling paste on paper mounted on wood and canvasboard

Given anonymously, 1997