

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NO. 43

CORRESPONDENCE OF WORDS AND PICTURES EXPLORED AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

WORDS AND PICTURES, an exhibition of some 95 works from the Drawing Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, will focus on the varied, difficult and often ambiguous relationship of words to pictures in modern art. The exhibition, in the third floor Sachs Galleries from August 20 to October 6, 1981, is directed by Bernice Rose, Curator of Drawings at the Museum.

Among the works on view will be illustrations for mythological and biblical texts, illustrations for pre-existing literary texts, and illustrations to texts created by the artists themselves. Some examples go beyond the traditional illustrational relationship of word and image to the use of the word as the pictured object, itself a subject. At the other extreme, the exhibition will include artists' "journals" -- the picture as narrative -- and a book without text. The show will not include illustrated books as such.

"Many of the illustrations are unpublished," comments Bernice Rose, "indeed, most were not commissioned and probably not intended for publication, but were called up by the work on which they are based." Examples are Charles Demuth's watercolors after Henry James' The Turn of the Screw and Nana by Zola. Thirty-Four Illustrations for Dante's Inferno by Robert Rauschenberg have not been seen in their entirety in the United States for over five years.

A great many modern artists have attempted illustrations simply for pleasure -- sometimes for the sake of the text as a pretext for images that

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