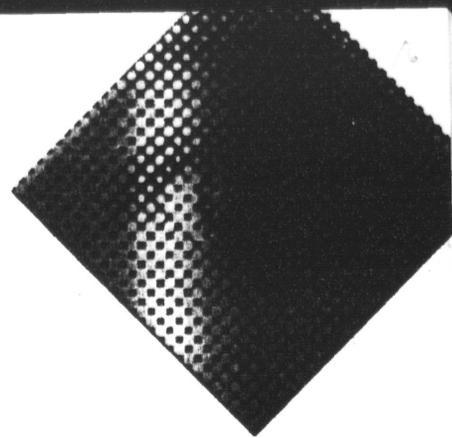


The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 5
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY
OF RECENT
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

MAY-AUGUST, 1984

INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ART
TO OPEN AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

An important exhibition in the history of The Museum of Modern Art, AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF RECENT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE, will open the Museum's new temporary exhibition galleries--the International Council Galleries and the René d'Harnoncourt Galleries--to the public on May 17. This major loan exhibition signifies a reaffirmation of the Museum's long-standing commitment to contemporary art at a moment when it is simultaneously presenting an extensive new installation of its unrivaled Collection of 20th century art. Directed by Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, the exhibition comprises 195 works, all executed since 1975, by 165 artists from 17 countries.

AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF RECENT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE and its accompanying publication have been made possible by a grant from AT&T. Additional support was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Recognizing the absence of a single dominant style in the art of today, AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF RECENT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE will reveal the high quality and extraordinary vitality of recent artistic production in acknowledging a variety of works by a younger generation of artists. Together, the 195 works included in the exhibition provide an

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overview of the extremely lively artistic atmosphere of the moment, and impart a sense of the great diversity and individualism that is prevalent in today's artistic output.

The exhibition, in presenting a selective cross-section of work, will suggest the wide range of conventions and emotions that surround aspects of today's artistic imagination. Many previously unfamiliar works from institutions and collections both in the United States and abroad will be on view. Because there has not been an overall survey of contemporary art of this magnitude in the United States for many years, almost two generations of artists will be represented; while most are relatively unknown, some are in fact quite established in their careers and their work relatively familiar.

In all, 17 countries will be represented. They are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, India, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and West Germany.

The paintings and sculpture to be included in the exhibition demonstrate, according to Mr. McShine, "an integrity and an imagination that suggest not only attention to the continuing traditions of their mediums but also the search for innovation." Various trends in contemporary art will be identified, such as the recent tendency toward expressionism in painting as illustrated in the work of such artists as Davida Allen, Armando, Walter Dahn, Martin Disler, Rainer Fetting, and Susan Rothenberg. Other aspects of the current aesthetic that will be examined include a renewed interest in: allegory and metaphor, as in works

by such artists as Jean Michel Alberola, Sandro Chia, Jorg Immendorff, Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid, Malcolm Morley and Dario Villalba; narrative, including such artists as Mac Adams, Robert Adrian, Ida Applebroog, Peter Booth, Rafael Ferrer and Peter Fischli and David Weiss; and humor, as seen in works by Jean-Charles Blais, Mark Tansey and Bill Woodrow, among others.

The exhibition will also explore the continuing richness and depth of abstraction as seen in the work of Gregory Amenoff, Gianni Dessí, Toni Grand, Per Kirkeby, Judy Pfaff, Katherine Porter, Gary Stephan and Toon Verhoef, among others, as well as a renewed interest in lush patterning and decorativeness, as depicted, for example, in work by Robert Kushner, Kim Macconnel and Claude Viallat.

The sculpture to be included, by such artists as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Siah Armajani, Scott Burton, Tony Cragg, Barry Flanagan, Anish Kapoor, Giuseppe Penone, Reiner Ruthenbeck, Ned Smyth and Didier Vermeiren, will provide a counterpart to the concerns of current painting and will illustrate the continuing independence and specificity of the sculptural tradition.

"It is my hope that those who are able to see this exhibition will understand that art is about looking, and is not always dependent on hearing or reading," says Mr. McShine.

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AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF RECENT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE will occupy the Museum's temporary exhibition galleries on the Ground Floor and the Lower Level through August 7; the installation on the Ground Floor will remain on view through August 28. The exhibition, conceived as a celebration of the opening of the expanded Museum, will be shown only at The Museum of Modern Art.

A major 384-page Museum publication, An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture, will document the exhibition and the artists' accomplishments during the period through extensive illustrations. Featuring nearly 800 black and white illustrations, the book will contain an introduction by Mr. McShine, biographical information on all the artists represented in the exhibition, selected individual and group exhibition lists, and a bibliography of publications pertaining to these artists. This handsome book, measuring 11½ x 10½ inches, will be paperbound only and will sell for \$17.50 until September 1, 1984, \$25.00 thereafter.

For further information, contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, or Pamela Sweeney, Assistant to the Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. (212) 708-9750
