

The Museum of Modern Art

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PROJECTS: KATE ERICSON AND MEL ZIEGLER

October 22 - November 29, 1988

The Museum of Modern Art continues its PROJECTS series with an indoor-outdoor installation by American artists Kate Ericson and Mel Ziegler from October 22 to November 29, 1988. Organized by Kathleen Slavin, curatorial assistant in the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, Signature Piece focuses on the contributions of anonymous workers to the formation of areas in the Museum and its neighborhood.

The exhibition is composed of clear Plexiglas signs bearing the magnified first-name autographs of the individuals who have fabricated or prepared the materials that create the Museum's architectural setting. These signature panels are displayed on or next to fountain pipes, marble pavement, foliage, and glass, for example, recalling the production origins of the Museum's Garden Hall Gallery and Sculpture Garden, as well as buildings visible from the Garden.

Ziegler and Ericson's installations explore the ways in which individuality is expressed and suppressed in societies, in each case adopting language and materials related to the particular site. Signature Piece examines the ways in which socially productive work, including artistic efforts, are brought to public light. The use of the workers' first names is deliberately informal, calling attention to the standardized texts with which the Museum labels its collection. Ms. Slavin writes, "This focus on anonymous, nonartistic, skilled handiwork and its blending with artistic labors probes how we judge the known artists whose works attract a typical museum visit." While full names are indicated in the brochure, the first-name panels allow the

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