

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1995

PROJECTS: NANCY RUBINS

January 26 - March 14, 1995

MoMA and Airplane Parts (1995), a monumental, site-specific sculpture created by Los Angeles artist Nancy Rubins (b. 1952) for The Museum of Modern Art's next **PROJECTS** exhibition, is on view from January 26 through March 14, 1995. Organized by Sheryl Conkelton, Associate Curator, Department of Photography, **PROJECTS: NANCY RUBINS** explores the complex relationship between sculpture and its environment. Massive in scale, the installation is comprised of an accumulation of elements that energize the Garden Hall Gallery, and alter our perception and experience of the space.

Characteristically dynamic, Rubins' installation is assembled from discarded airplane parts -- enormous pieces of torn and bent engine housings, fuselages, and wings -- suspended by metal cable. The work spirals upward from the center of the gallery and extends in all directions, resulting in a large-scale sculpture that dominates the space and directs the viewer's movement through the room.

Throughout her fifteen-year career, Rubins has created heroic environments, using dismembered, post-industrial artifacts that are arranged for dramatic and visual effect. Previous works include columns of bound and twisted mattresses; sky-borne agglomerations of television sets, electrical fans, and other

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appliances; and mammoth, rising forms of aluminum-sided mobile homes and water-heater tanks. Comprised of ordinary, discarded elements, the installations have a surprising elegance and energy.

"While Rubins acknowledges the potential to read a condemnation of consumer culture in her works, she is more concerned with the compositional energy created by the combination of large numbers of objects," states Sheryl Conkelton.

Born in Naples, Texas, Nancy Rubins currently lives in Los Angeles, California, and is a Professor at the Fine Arts and Sculpture Department of the University of California at Los Angeles. She received a B.F.A. degree from The Maryland Institute College of Art and an M.F.A. from the University of California at Davis. Her work has been shown at museums throughout this country and Europe, including Le Consortium in France (1994) and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (1992), and at the Venice Biennale (1993). She has also collaborated with Chris Burden on installations at L.A.C.E. in Los Angeles (1987) and New Langton Arts in San Francisco (1986).

PROJECTS, a series of exhibitions devoted to the work of contemporary artists, is made possible by generous grants from the Lannan Foundation, The Bohlen Foundation, and The Contemporary Arts Council and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

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For further information or photographic material, contact Mary Lou Strahlendorff, the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.