

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
August 1997

CHUCK CLOSE RETROSPECTIVE TO OPEN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN FEBRUARY

One of the Leading Painters of the Past 30 Years

Exhibition Features Rich, Psychologically Charged Portraits of Fellow Artists

EXHIBITION *Chuck Close*

DATES February 26–May 26, 1998

ORGANIZATION Organized by Robert Storr, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture. Mr. Storr was the coauthor of *Chuck Close*, a monographic study of the artist (Rizzoli, 1987, with Lisa Lyons).

CONTENT This retrospective exhibition of the work of Chuck Close, featuring the monumental, psychologically charged portraits of anonymous sitters and distinguished fellow artists for which he is best known, includes some 80 paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs from all phases of the artist's career.

Close (American, b. 1940) first came to prominence in the 1970s with his great portraits, based on passport-style photographs, painted in thousands of tiny increments with an airbrush. Although Close has focused exclusively on similarly formatted portraits ever since, he has developed them through a broad variety of techniques and mediums. Often associated with Photo-Realism, his images, built in a highly disciplined manner from grids of small, modular units, are more strongly grounded in the Minimalist aesthetics of the late 1960s. In their multiplicity of aspects, however, they are in a class by themselves.

Chuck Close has had a long association with The Museum of Modern Art. His first print was the focus of a **Projects** exhibition in 1973. His work was included in *Drawing Now* in 1975, and in 1991 he organized a widely acclaimed exhibition, *Head-On/The Modern Portrait*, as part of the Museum's **Artist's Choice** series. MoMA's recent acquisition of a major 1995 painting, *Dorothea*, adds to its rich holdings of Close's work in all mediums.

PUBLICATION *Chuck Close*, by Robert Storr, with additional essays by Kirk Varnedoe and Deborah Wye, will also include Mr. Storr's interview with the artist and a chronology.

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