

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

PRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS INSTALLATION

Through August 1985

The current installation in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Prints and Illustrated Books features a group of recent acquisitions, a section entitled, "The Expressionist Idiom," and a collection of works by contemporary artists. The exhibitions in these galleries are changed several times each year to reflect the Museum's most recent acquisitions of prints, and to share its unparalleled collection with the public. Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, has organized this particular exhibition to illustrate major developments in the history of modern graphic art.

In reference to "The Expressionist Idiom," which is the central section of the installation, Ms. Castleman wrote, "Expressionism, Abstract Expressionism, and Neo-Expressionism are labels that have been given to types of art generated more by emotion than logic.... Expressionism has appeared as a major formula for composition at regular intervals, particularly since the late nineteenth century. The tendency to relay intense feeling through unnatural coloring and free-ranging line has often emerged in reaction to strict formal or social constraints. This small selection of prints exhibits several manifestations of the idiom, ranging from Vincent van Gogh's manic representation of the real to the energetic, abstract strokes of Hans Hartung and Antoni Tapiès."

Among the works on view from the first decades of this century are etchings by Paul Klee and Kathe Kollwitz, woodcuts by Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse, and lithographs by Jean Dubuffet and Edvard Munch. To indicate how

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European abstract artists of the fifties brought an expressionistic esthetic to printmaking, rarely exhibited etchings by Soulages and Wols are also included

A separate segment of the installation is devoted to contemporary works, some of which are recent acquisitions, by contemporary American artists Richard Diebenkorn, Helen Frankenthaler, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Elizabeth Murray, Nancy Spero, James Rosenquist, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, Tom Wesselman, and Terry Winters.

The installation will remain on view through August.

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For additional information or photographic materials contact Jeanne Collins or Jessica Schwartz, Department of Public Information 212/708-9750.