

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**The Museum of Modern Art****THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS SPECIAL SHOWING OF BRANCUSI MASTERWORKS**

January 18–April 23, 1996

Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that the Museum is presenting a special installation of masterworks by the early modern sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876–1957), drawn from the collections of the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, and The Museum of Modern Art. *Brancusi: Selected Masterworks from the Musée National d'Art Moderne and The Museum of Modern Art, New York* juxtaposes fourteen celebrated Brancusi sculptures from Paris with ten major works from MoMA's own collection. The installation is on view from January 18 to April 23, 1996, in the Museum's second-floor Painting and Sculpture Galleries.

The Brancusi installation has been timed to coincide with the final weeks of the Museum's acclaimed retrospective *Piet Mondrian: 1872–1944*, which has been extended until January 30. This offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience in close proximity a full range of works by two modern masters whose art is marked by a spiritual intensity transmitted through simplified forms.

The Brancusi installation follows the landmark retrospective *Constantin Brancusi*, which was coorganized by the Musée National d'Art Moderne and the Philadelphia Museum of Art and which closed in Philadelphia on December 31. For that exhibition, the Musée National d'Art Moderne had consented to lend a large selection of its holdings from Brancusi's bequest to the museum; it has now generously agreed to extend this loan for the special New York showing. Once the sculptures are returned to Paris and reintegrated into a newly refurbished presentation of the Brancusi bequest, it is unlikely they will be loaned again.

Brancusi was one of the most influential sculptors of the twentieth century and his art is one of singular beauty and complexity. Though he retained strong ties to his origins in rural Rumania, he spent virtually all of his adult life in Paris. Working in deliberate opposition to the surface modeling and agitated gestures of Auguste Rodin's sculptures, Brancusi began around 1908 to transform the medium into an art of purified, self-contained forms. His creations in wood, stone, and metal, ranging in scale from the intimate to the monumental, blend a near-mystical spirituality with an earthy humor, and combine a machine-age sophistication with a rough, primitivizing energy. Countless artists have been inspired by the quiet, delicate sense of essential beauty in Brancusi's work, as well as the rigorous craftsmanship of his methods. On his death in 1957, Brancusi bequeathed the contents of his Paris studio to the French nation, and it has since been one of the great treasures of the Musée National d'Art Moderne.

Generously sponsored by Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, *Brancusi* has been selected and installed by Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, and Margit Rowell, Chief Curator, Department of

Drawings. Ms. Rowell coorganized *Constantin Brancusi* in her former position as Curator of Sculpture, Musée National d'Art Moderne, with Ann Temkin, The Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of 20th-Century Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Communications, 212/708-9750.

No. 4



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