

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART COMMISSIONS INSTALLATION BY ARTIST FRANCIS ALÿS FOR FIRST PROJECTS EXHIBITION AT MoMA QNS**

***Projects 76: Francis Alÿs, an Inaugural Exhibition at MoMA QNS, is on View from June 29 to September 16, 2002***

**NEW YORK, JUNE 2002**—The Museum of Modern Art presents ***Projects 76: Francis Alÿs*** at MoMA QNS, a commissioned installation that is comprised of a video of his recent ceremonial procession commemorating MoMA's move from midtown Manhattan to Long Island City, Queens. The video is shown with a group of the artist's photographs and drawings from the event. *Projects 76: Francis Alÿs*, on view from June 29 to September 16, 2002, is collaboratively sponsored by MoMA and the Public Art Fund and is organized by Harper Montgomery, Assistant Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, The Museum of Modern Art. The *Projects* series is organized by Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film and Media.

The procession took place on June 23, beginning at MoMA's midtown location at 11 West 53 Street and moving across the Queensboro Bridge, up Queens Boulevard to MoMA QNS on 33 Street. Participants in the procession carried palanquins holding representations of works in the Museum's collection by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp, and Alberto Giacometti. The event—with its rose petal-strewn route and brass band—had the feel of a religious procession, like the one in Little Italy's famous annual San Gennaro festival.

"Francis Alÿs has responded to this moment of transition for the museum by devising a timely and provocative performance," said Ms. Montgomery. "With this piece, he has encouraged us all to reflect fondly on our relationships with modern icons and to find mystical meaning in unexpected contexts."

For Alÿs, the street is a site of invigorating possibility and confluence, a space where the complexity of popular life collides and interacts with the practice of making art. Since 1991, going on *paseos* (walks) has been the centerpiece of Alÿs's artistic practice, and the urban streets, especially those of Mexico City, have been his primary context. His works in various mediums are born out of these walks, during which he often carries a prop and adheres to a whimsical route or pattern of behavior. He records his path and the results of his walk, collects artifacts, and stores images, all of which he later uses in his drawings and paintings.

**About the Artist**

Francis Alÿs was born in 1959 in Antwerp, Belgium, and currently lives in Mexico City. His projects include *Paradox of Praxis* (1997), for which the artist pushed a block of ice through the streets of Mexico City until it melted, and, most

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recently, *When Faith Moves Mountains* (2002), in which 500 people at Ventanilla, outside Lima, Peru, formed a single line at the foot of a giant sand dune and moved it four inches using shovels. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford (2002), the Lisson Gallery in London (1999 and 2001), the Galerie Peter Kilchmann in Zurich (1999 and 2001), the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver (1998), and the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City (1997). He has also shown in group exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York (2002), the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Witte de With center for contemporary art in Rotterdam, and the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London (all 2001), and the Hayward Gallery in London (1999), among many others.

### **About the Curator**

Harper Montgomery joined the Museum's Department of Prints and Illustrated Books in 1998 as curatorial assistant and was appointed Assistant Curator in January 2002. After completing her M.A. in Art History at Columbia University, Harper Montgomery was a Rockefeller Curatorial Fellow in the Latin American Collection at the Jack S. Blanton Museum, The University of Texas at Austin. For MoMA she has worked on shows including *Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Print Collecting* (1999), *Making Choices* (2000), *Greater New York* (2000), and *The Russian Avant-Garde Book 1910-43* (2002) as well as on acquisitions and the *Young Print Collectors* group.

### **Sponsorship**

The *Projects* series is sponsored by Peter Norton. *Projects 76: Francis Alj's* is organized in collaboration with the Public Art Fund. *Francis Alj's: The Modern Procession*, a project of the Public Art Fund, was presented on June 23, 2002. Video projectors and DVD players are courtesy of Hitachi America, Ltd.

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