

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The first performance of DOCUMENTS OF THE RAY GUN THEATER: 1959 TO THE PRESENT --- a "retrospective" of Claes Oldenburg's "happenings" --- will be introduced at The Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, October 22. The program will be composed of material drawn from all the artist's past "happenings" - - - slides, films, costumes, props, and taped commentary, music, and scripts. Oldenburg will be present to provide additional commentary in person.

The "ray gun", an "invincible weapon," adapted from comic strips, has been used by Oldenburg in objects, drawings, posters as well as the earliest spectacles presented at the Judson Gallery in conjunction with the exhibition of The Street. The "Ray Gun Theater" is the term he applies to the new kind of theater he has formulated out of happenings.

Most of the color slides, which are being shown for the first time, were made by Robert R. McElroy and document the Ray Gun Theater from its beginning. Among these "happenings" to be represented in DOCUMENTS OF THE RAY GUN THEATER are "Blackouts" (1960), "Fotodeath" (1961), "Store Days I and II" (1962), "Autobodys" (1963), "Moviehouse" (1965), and "Massage" (1966). The films to be shown of these events include "Fotodeath" (1961) by Al Kouzel; "Snapshots from the City" (1961) by Stan Vanderbeek; "Happenings I and II" (1962) by Raymond Saroff, a composite of ten different "happenings"; "Injun" (Dallas version) (1962) by Roy Fridge; "Scarface and Aphrodite" (1963) by Vernon Zimmerman, and "Birth of the Flag" (1967) by Stan Vanderbeek and Sheldon and Diane Rochlin, edited by Alfons Schilling.

DOCUMENTS OF THE RAY GUN THEATER will be presented on October 22 at 8:00 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets for each performance are on sale at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, for \$1.50.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York. 10019 956-7501, 7504, 7298.