

The Museum of Modern Art

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No. 166
FOR RELEASE:
December 29, 1969

CLAUDE PICASSO DOCUMENTS SPACES EXHIBITION

The installation of the exhibition SPACES, on view at The Museum of Modern Art from December 30 through March 1, was documented by photographer Claude Picasso.

Five artists and a collaborative group were each given an area on the Museum's First Floor or Sculpture Garden in which to create their own "space". Beginning with the empty gallery, and using a variety of materials including computers, vacuum-coated glass, acoustical panels, and Norway spruce trees, the artists created their own "spaces" as Mr. Picasso photographed the works in progress.

Jennifer Licht, Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture of the Museum and director of the exhibition, explains in her introduction to the catalogue, "An exhibition in which the installation becomes the actual realization of the work of art and rooms must be planned and built according to the artists' needs, challenges the usual role of the museum and makes unaccustomed demands of its staff and resources. A museum traditionally houses and conserves objects of art but now it becomes responsible for the execution of the artist's idea." The problems of photographing such an installation are obvious.

Born in Paris in 1947, Claude Picasso has lived in New York City for the past two years. After attending schools in France, he worked in a commercial photography laboratory there. Since his arrival in New York he has worked as an assistant at Richard Avedon's studio, and has done free-lance photography for such major publications as Life, Vogue, Esquire and True. He is married to actress Sara Lee.

Mr. Picasso's photographs of the installation of SPACES will be mounted in a special orientation and preparation room where visitors remove their shoes before entering the exhibition, and will document the show in the catalogue.

Additional information available from Garry George, Assistant to the Director, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. (212) 956 - 7501.