

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 122 C  
FOR RELEASE:  
OCTOBER 27, 1971

An exhibition of etchings by Dutch printmaker Anton Heyboer, who works in no other medium and whose prints are an integral part of his ascetic existence, will be on view in the third floor Sachs Galleries from October 26 to February 7. Directed by Riva Castleman, Associate Curator in charge of Prints and Illustrated Books, this exhibition consists of 18 prints produced between 1957 and 1968.

Heyboer's prints visually recall the graffiti of public walls by means of unsophisticated drawings and seemingly meaningless diagrams which are, in reality, complex codifications of the artist's understanding of his own evolution. Since the early 1960's, he and his fourth wife have lived in a barn in Den Ijp, an isolated area of the northern Dutch marshes where, in 1965, they were joined by a young girl. In the barn, furnished only with a stove and a printing press, the group lives in almost monastic silence and these prints are their conversations and revelations. Printmaking for Heyboer, then, is the absolute expression of a man whose existence is almost totally devoid of the pressures of his century.

The prints are all created from sheets of roofing zinc, smeared with tar, with images scraped onto it and etched with hydrochloric acid. The dominant color, a brownish black, is made from earth. "The entire process from drawing the image through printing, is meant to resolve an emotional problem for the group," says Miss Castleman. "The writing and imagery on each plate is the expression of emotion, the shout or scream. The print is its resolution."

In 1954, after divorcing his first wife, Heyboer wrote a book in which he gave an account of his disoriented life, which included an itinerant childhood, detention in a Berlin work camp and a mental breakdown. He illustrated the book with a diagram which has, since 1957, been the dominant image in his prints, a system which he says "is the destruction of the untrue in myself but it opens again the way to find the true because it is the real conscience."

\*\*\*\*\*  
Additional information and photographs available from Diana Goldin, Coordinator of Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7297, -7501