

The Museum of Modern Art

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PRINTS OF THE SIXTIES

Examples of printmaking by some of the American artists whose works are currently shown in The Museum of Modern Art's new installation of its painting and sculpture collection can be seen in PRINTS OF THE SIXTIES, which has opened in a first-floor gallery adjacent to "New Directions: American and European Art since the Mid-1950s." The exhibition of about a dozen works from the Museum's extensive collection of contemporary American prints, directed by Riva Castleman, Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books, will remain on view through May 9, 1973.

Represented in this selection are Jim Dine, Helen Frankenthaler, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg, Jules Olitski, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol.

During the 1960s the popularity of these artists was extended by the appearance of their lithographs and serigraphs. These prints are generally larger and more colorful than those made by American artists in previous decades. Through the perspicacity of publishers such as Tatyana Grossman (Universal Limited Art Editions) and Ken Tyler (Gemini, G.E.L.), artists made lithographs of a quality that was considered comparable to that of French lithographs of the 1890s. Additional encouragement was offered through the Tamarind Lithography Workshop, funded by the Ford Foundation and directed by June Wayne. Many of the images of the 1960s depended upon commercial printing processes, and the serigraph became a respectable medium through its creative application by artists whose work was published by Rosa Esman (Original Editions) and Leo Castelli. Many others contributed to the flourishing of printmaking during the sixties -- printers, publishers, curators who placed American prints within the context of international art. "It is, however, the artists themselves who, with remarkably few exceptions,

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created prints with the same ardor as they created paintings and sculptures and filled the last decade with a historic abundance of vibrant images," comments Riva Castleman in the exhibition wall label.

"New Directions," which PRINTS OF THE SIXTIES complements, brings the exhibition of the Museum's painting and sculpture collection up to date in the new ground-floor galleries devoted solely to works executed since the mid-1950s. These galleries, making it possible for the first time to show recent work in more than a limited sampling will be changed from time to time by rotating works so that new acquisitions and works which could not be included in the present grouping can be exhibited. Visitors are now able to observe in a manner not possible before the variety of contemporary art, and they have the opportunity to study and evaluate for themselves art about which critical opinion is still considerably more divergent than it is about the art of the preceding decades. The reinstallation has been made possible in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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