

The Museum of Modern Art

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NARRATIVE PRINTS

The print as an effective visual means of telling a story is the subject of Narrative Prints, an exhibition on view at The Museum of Modern Art from May 14 through August 8. Included are works from the Collection ranging in subject from Peter Blakes's Alice through the Looking Glass to a suite in prose and etching documenting Pablo Picasso's reaction to the devastating bombings of civilians during the Spanish Civil War of 1936.

Howardena Pindell, Assistant Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books and director of this exhibition, has selected prints from the Museum's Collection that "... tell several stories, most of which were written or composed by the artists." Edvard Munch, in his Alpha and Omega suite, rewrites the tale of Adam and Eve with highly personalized overtones. Max Klinger, after witnessing a woman losing her glove at a Berlin roller-skating rink, created his suite, A Glove. Japanese artist, Ay-0, is represented by a whimsical recent print, Mr. Ay-0 Got Drunk by a Rainbow, an inventive work using a new 3M color-in-color magnetic process.

In some cases the artists were inspired by the words or illustrations of others. Alice through the Looking Glass, a series of eight serigraph color prints by British artist Peter Blake, is based on John Tenniel's illustrations for Lewis Carroll's original edition. Janes Ensor illustrated a narrative by Edgar Allan Poe in his etching, Vengeance of Hop Frog. David Hockney borrowed the concept for some of his images and titles from Hogarth's The Rake's Progress and Four Prints from an Election, parables from the 18th century.

The continuing significance and recent upsurge of the print as a means through which a story is told is observed by exhibition director Howardena Pindell who writes, "As artists, interested in generating vibrant images, experiment with new graphic techniques, they continue to be drawn to the magical eloquence that can be transmitted

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through telling a story."

In conjunction with this exhibition, poet and story teller Joyce Timpanelli will read from Lewis Carroll's Alice through the Looking Glass and tell stories based on other prints in this exhibition. The readings will take place in the Sachs Gallery, at 12:15 and 3:15 on July 22, 23, 29, 30 and August 5, 6.

Additional information and photographs available from Lisa Frigand, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504; 7501.
