

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## PAPERWORKS BY ELLSWORTH KELLY

The creation of a work of art by manipulating wet paper pulp into repleatable forms is a recent development in multiple art. Examples of this technique, which is closest in spirit to printmaking, can be seen in The Museum of Modern Art's current exhibition PAPERWORKS BY ELLSWORTH KELLY. On view through January 30 in the Museum's first-floor galleries, the exhibition has been directed by Riva Castleman, Director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, who observes that "paperworks such as these by Ellsworth Kelly were developed out of a direct confrontation with the basic material of printed art.

In 1976 Ellsworth Kelly executed a set of twenty Colored Paper Images, of which ten are included in this exhibition. After the white areas of these works were made in the usual ways, layers of colored pulp, placed in molds that had been shaped by the artist, were put atop the soft and still wet pulp. The colored pulp was thus held to specific areas and shapes. The white and colored fibers were then pressed together and dried. "The migration of color through the white fibers," Ms. Castleman notes, "presents an unexpected element in the imagery of Ellsworth Kelly."

Kelly's familiar flat-color and hard-edged imagery is softened in these paperworks. Ms. Castleman: "The soft edges of the color fields are an unfamiliar and provocative deviation from the clear opposition and reaction of sharp-edged forms in his previous paintings and prints. One discovers from these paperworks that the device that activated his compositions was not the clean demarcation of colors but rather the achievement of perfect balance through the choice of colors and their forms."

The materials for Colored Paper Images were developed by Kenneth Tyler; the editions of each of the 20 images in the suite were carried out by papermaker John Koller.

On view in the first floor galleries directly adjacent to the Kelly exhibition is RECENT ACQUISITIONS: AMERICAN PRINTS, now through January 30, 1979. This is a selection of works that have recently entered the collection of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books. Included are prints by Richard Artschwager, Charles Christopher Hill, Jasper Johns (three lithographs), Kazuko, Sol LeWitt, Sylvia Mangold, Robert Motherwell, Claes Oldenburg, Harvey Quaytman, and James Rosenquist.

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