

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: MONUMENTAL PRINTS: GEORG BASELITZ AND ROLF ISELI

DATES: October 13, 1983 - January 3, 1984

DIRECTOR: Audrey Isselbacher, Assistant Curator
Department of Prints and Illustrated Books

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will present in two concurrent exhibitions dramatically oversized prints by these contemporary European artists. Thirty-three prints of astonishing size, linoleum cuts by Baselitz averaging 90" x 60" and drypoints by Iseli averaging 60" x 35", will be shown. The works will illustrate how these two artists have gone far beyond the limitations traditionally imposed by these print media to develop their imagery. The exhibitions will also reveal the related manner in which these artists have employed painterly printing methods to present their ideas of the figure as a distorted or metamorphosed presence.

Georg Baselitz, a German artist who paints on a large scale, began making monumental linoleum cuts in 1977. Baselitz pulls only a few impressions of each state of his prints. He exploits printmaking as a means of documenting the evolution of individual compositions. By using oil paint rather than ink to print his works and then further embellishing the printed image with hand-applied paint, Baselitz blurs the traditional boundaries between painting and printmaking.

Rolf Iseli, a Swiss-born artist, made his first monumental drypoint in 1975, choosing this medium typically associated with small-scale, detailed drawing because the technique, in which the artist attacks the metal plate with a sharp tool, allowed him to have a direct manual confrontation with the plate. Iseli's work features metamorphosed self-portraits with titles that reflect his life in the French countryside. Like Baselitz, Iseli prints his works in small numbers of progressive states rather than large standard editions.

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