

The Museum of Modern Art

No. 56

ADVANCE FACT SHEET

Public Information

EXHIBITION: LEE KRASNER: A RETROSPECTIVE

DATES: December 20, 1984 - February 12, 1985

DIRECTOR: Directed by Barbara Rose, Consulting Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and installed by William Rubin, Director, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

TOUR: The exhibition originated at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and traveled to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, and the Phoenix Art Museum. At the conclusion of its run at The Museum of Modern Art, it will continue to the Musee National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

CONTENTS: Totalling approximately 50 works from the years 1946-80, the exhibition is the first full retrospective of the paintings of Lee Krasner. It recognizes her achievement as a leading first-generation Abstract Expressionist and chronicles the development of a career that remained vital for more than half a century. Although Krasner's reputation has long been obscured by that of her husband, Jackson Pollock, the paintings on view proclaim the strength, individuality, and innovation of her work.

The exhibition begins with the dense and small-scale "all-over" paintings of the late 1940s and continues on to survey the airy and exuberant monumental works of subsequent periods, including her striking collages made from shards of previous paintings. All of the work is distinguished by stunning juxtapositions of vibrant color and bold rhythms, at once lively and masterfully controlled. Krasner died in June, 1984, leaving an artistic legacy highlighted by constant reinvention and unceasing exploration.

SPONSOR: The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States has made possible the New York showing of this exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, partial funding for the national tour has been provided by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts; Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated; and the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Exhibition Endowment Fund. Additional assistance for the catalogue has been provided by the DeWitt Wallace Fund #3 in Community Funds, Inc.

PUBLICATION: Lee Krasner, authored by Barbara Rose, has been published in conjunction with the exhibition by The Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The almost 200-page softcover book contains 172 illustrations (33 in color) and sells for \$14.95.

PRESS PREVIEW: Wednesday, December 19, 11 am - 2 pm.