

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1985

EXHIBITION AND FILM PROGRAMS PLANNED TO CELEBRATE THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Exhibition:
Garden Hall Gallery
September 23 - October 29, 1985

Film Programs:
Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1
September 27, October 1, 8, 15, 22

In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts, a small exhibition of works of art from the permanent collection will open on September 23. All of the works were acquired during the seventies with the aid of funds from the NEA. Organized by Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, the exhibition will "present drawings, prints, photography, paintings, and sculpture, concentrating primarily on artists who emerged in the seventies." The exhibition includes works by Jennifer Bartlett, Lynda Benglis, Larry Fink, Frank Gohlke, Susan Rothenberg, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Joan Snyder.

During the seventies, the Endowment was actively involved in subsidizing museum acquisition programs. The permanent collections at The Museum of Modern Art were particularly enhanced by NEA support, received in the form of several matching funds grants for the purchase of works of art by living American artists. This exhibition gives the Museum an opportunity to express its gratitude to the Endowment, and to illustrate how its generous support helped to bring about early public awareness of several artists. Almost all of the artists included in the exhibition are former recipients of NEA fellowships.

Twenty years ago, on September 29, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed historic legislation to establish the National Endowment for the Arts. This fall, festivities and celebrations are planned throughout the country to

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commemorate the NEA for two decades of nourishing the arts in America. Through its various programs, the NEA has provided essential support to an entire generation of individual artists, and to almost every major American cultural institution.

The Department of Film is also participating in this celebration of the National Endowment for the Arts' anniversary. Jon Gartenberg, assistant curator in the Archives of the Department of Film, has organized a series of six programs to acknowledge the NEA's generous support of film preservation activity during the past fifteen years. The Endowment has provided federal funds to the American film archives for preservation of motion pictures in their collections. The films that are scheduled include silent films of D. W. Griffith and Raoul Walsh, sound era Hollywood studio features, experimental cinema, and city symphony documentaries that have been preserved through support from the NEA.

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For additional information or photographic materials related to the exhibition contact Jeanne Collins or Jessica Schwartz, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

For additional information about the film program contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.