EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS BY JEAN DUBUFFET AT
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A retrospective of works on paper by the French artist Jean Dubuffet, who
died last year at the age of eighty-three, is on view in The Museum of Modern
Art's Drawings Galleries through January 13, 1987. DUBUFFET: WORKS ON PAPER
presents seventy-two drawings, watercolors, and collages complemented by
thirteen prints, four paintings, and one sculpture drawn from the Museum's
permanent collection.

Dubuffet, who rejected the over-refinement that he found in French art at
mid-century, sought inspiration in what he called "Art Brut"—untrained art,
graffiti, and the work of children and the insane. He attempted to infuse his
art with the naive directness and raw vitality of these untutored, unself-
conscious sources. According to Beatrice Kernan, assistant curator in the
Department of Drawings and the director of the exhibition, "The expressive
vigor of Dubuffet's art is, however, insured by a sophisticated manipulation of
esthetic means."

Dubuffet produced a unique kind of vernacular fantasy—inventive, ironic,
and whimsical—which found full expression in his drawings. The exhibition
reveals how the artist was "keenly responsive to the special properties of ink
drawing, using its fluidity and spontaneity to immaterialize the encrusted
surfaces of his painting and to expose the luminous, vibrant recesses of his
mind." The installation includes a rare surviving example of Dubuffet's work
prior to his commitment to an artistic career in 1942, and documents the
astonishing thematic and stylistic range of his mature drawings.

No. 90

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of
Public Information, 212/708-9750.