

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1986

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.

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