

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION THE DRAWINGS OF ROY LICHTENSTEIN

DATES March 15 - June 2, 1987

ORGANIZATION Bernice Rose, Curator, Department of Drawings,
The Museum of Modern Art.

SPONSORSHIP This exhibition and the accompanying publication have been made possible by a generous grant from The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

CONTENT This is the first major exhibition devoted to the drawings of American artist Roy Lichtenstein, who first gained international attention as one of the leading figures of the Pop Art movement. Consisting of approximately 275 works drawn from private collections and museums throughout the world, this retrospective surveys the artist's entire career through studies for paintings, prints, and sculpture. Beginning with independent black-and-white drawings from the early sixties, it includes small color studies for the famous Pop comic strip paintings of the same decade. His parodies of Surrealism in the seventies and of Expressionism in the eighties are represented by small studies and related large color drawings, the final studies for his large paintings of these periods. Also included are large studies for the Artist's Studio paintings (1974), and nine collage studies--four for the Greene Street Mural (1983) and five for the Equitable Building's Mural with Blue Brushstroke (1986). In addition four related paintings from the sixties will be on view.

The relatively small size of Lichtenstein's drawings allows for not only a comprehensive survey of his graphic oeuvre, but of the principle subjects and themes for his paintings as well. Appropriately, in the work of an artist who has said that "Unity in the work itself depends on unity of the artist's vision," an essential continuity of thematic concerns--over a twenty-five year period--is affirmed.

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PUBLICATION The Drawings of Roy Lichtenstein by Bernice Rose. 80 color and 83 black-and-white illustrations. 182 pages. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Clothbound, \$37.50; paperbound, \$17.95.

TRAVEL After its New York showing, the exhibition will travel to Tel Aviv, Rome, and Oxford before beginning an American tour (details to follow).

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