

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION CALIFORNIA PHOTOGRAPHY: REMAKING MAKE-BELIEVE

DATES June 28 - August 22, 1989

ORGANIZATION Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art

FOCUS In California, artists employing photography have taken a leading role in the development of alternatives to purist or "straight" photography. This survey presents recent work by seven artists and photographers living and working in California. They represent three generations in the development, since the late sixties, of synthetic and conceptual approaches to the medium that have become major trends within contemporary photography.

Over the last two decades, photography has been presented as a component of multi-media works, as documentation of performance art and site-specific pieces, and as a vehicle for works of conceptual art, as in the work of John Baldessari. He and Robert Heinecken developed strategies of appropriation now widely used by artists. A subsequent generation represented by Joann Callis, John Divola, and Larry Sultan, and photographers who have emerged more recently such as Nancy Barton and Larry Johnson, employ both construction and appropriation of the photograph's subject. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue provide a unique perspective on the rapidly changing relationship between photography and the traditional arts.

CONTENT The exhibition includes approximately thirty-five works made within the last five years by John Baldessari, Nancy Barton, Jo Ann Callis, John Divola, Robert Heinecken, Larry Johnson, and Larry Sultan. Deadpan humor and the influence of Hollywood films characterizes their work, which features saturated color, and the use of tableau photography and a variety of materials.

PUBLICATION California Photography: Remaking Make-Believe. By Susan Kismaric. Includes a chronology and bibliography for each artist. 72 pages, 34 duotone and color full-page plates. Published by The Museum of Modern Art.

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