

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
August 1989

## PROJECTS: MATT MULLICAN

August 24 - October 24, 1989

An installation of computer-generated art by New York artist Matt Mullican opens at The Museum of Modern Art on August 24, 1989, as part of the ongoing PROJECTS series. PROJECTS: MATT MULLICAN presents vivid, multimedia views of an imaginary city conceived by the artist. The exhibition has been organized by Jennifer Wells, curatorial assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture, and supported by a generous grant from the NYNEX Corporation.

On view until October 24, the installation features twelve lightboxes showing various city vistas. A five-minute animated laserdisc sequence, progressing at various speeds, traces a journey that connects the sites depicted in these transparencies. The exhibition also features two mural-size works on paper: a black-and-white line drawing of the city plan and a richly detailed, full-color panorama.

The interest in a model city as an exploration of human knowledge and personal experience has occupied Mullican in recent years. His previous works on this subject have presented detailed cityscapes filled with an encyclopedic vocabulary of signs and symbols, reminiscent of the pictographs found internationally in airports, on highways, and in other public sites. Functioning as language, these emblems are invested with complex, metaphysical meanings. Primary colors also plays a symbolic role in the hierarchy of Mullican's cosmology.

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This installation marks the results of Mullican's work on an advanced supercomputer, the Connection Machine-2, at Optomystic studios in Los Angeles. Working with a team of computer specialists, the artist was able to project three-dimensional, topographical designs from different sectors of the city with unprecedented flexibility. Mullican's computer-generated images can be translated to a variety of mediums, including photography, offset and video. Ms. Wells writes in the brochure accompanying the exhibition, "Matt Mullican's project bridges the gap between the vanguards of two disparate worlds, art and technology, and reveals the potential of future collaborations between the two."

Born in 1951 in Santa Monica, California, Matt Mullican received his B.F.A. degree from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, in 1974. He has exhibited in numerous individual and group exhibitions in New York, California, Canada, England, and West Germany, among others. Mullican's work was included in the 1989 Whitney Biennial Exhibition and will be featured in a one-artist exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., later this year. He lives and works in New York.

PROJECTS, a series that presents recent work by contemporary artists, is made possible by a grant from the Lannan Foundation.

The next exhibition in the series is PROJECTS: HOUSTON CONWILL, on view from November 3, 1989 to January 2, 1990.

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