FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION
LEE FRIEDLANDER: NUDES

DATES
July 25 - October 8, 1991

ORGANIZATION
John Szarkowski, Director, Department of Photography,
The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENT
For more than twelve years, American photographer Lee Friedlander (b. 1934) has been photographing female nudes. Approximately fifty photographs from this project, selected from the forthcoming book Nudes, are presented in this exhibition. Using a hand-held Leica camera and a flash, Friedlander photographs his subjects at close range, often framing the image to focus on a torso or limbs. The models, in domestic settings, appear standing, seated, or reclining. Ranging from intimate portraits to abstract figure studies, the images are both relaxed and assertive, humorous and erotic.

Though Friedlander’s nudes belong to a history that includes Bill Brandt, Harry Callahan, and Edward Weston, they differ from more classical interpretations of the nude in their unflinching realism. Friedlander allows the viewer to recognize the subjects as individuals by the appearance of a beauty mark, for example, or her own unique anatomy. Occasionally the subjects are photographed so closely that they appear abstract, recalling the work of Constantin Brancusi. Although some of these pictures have been exhibited previously, this is the first time this body of work has been shown together.

PUBLICATION
Nudes by Lee Friedlander. Afterword by Ingrid Sischy.
104 pages. 84 tritone plates. Published by Pantheon Books.
Hardcover, $50.00, available in The MoMA Book Store.

TRAVEL
A national tour is planned.

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