

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PROJECTS: ART SPIEGELMAN

December 17, 1991 - January 28, 1992

An exhibition of work by Art Spiegelman, an artist who has made his mark on many aspects of cartooning, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on December 17, 1991, as part of its PROJECTS series. Organized by Robert Storr, curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, **PROJECTS: ART SPIEGELMAN** coincides with the publication of *MAUS II: A Survivor's Tale, and Here My Troubles Began*, the second volume of Spiegelman's two-volume cartoon-strip book that tells the story of his father's experience of the Holocaust. On view through January 28, 1992, the installation includes all the original pages for both parts of *MAUS*, as well as ancillary sketches, preparatory drawings and layouts of individual sections, and source materials used by Spiegelman.

Art Spiegelman has spent over a decade working on *MAUS*, a landmark in the transformation of comic-book art which began in the 1960s. *MAUS* and *MAUS II* follow the tribulations of Vladek Spiegelman from the ghetto to Auschwitz to the Catskills. At the same time, the books also reveal the difficult relationship between the artist and his aging father. In these cartoons, the Jews are depicted as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs. Such animal symbolism has frequently been used to tell fables, but here it serves to make us remember and reconsider harsh historical events and their complex psychological legacy. Immensely powerful in its combination of humor, horror, and pathos, Spiegelman's narrative is graphic in every sense.

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