

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PROJECTS: SUZANNE LAFONT

October 2 - November 15, 1992

The first exhibition in the United States of the work of French artist Suzanne Lafont opens October 2, 1992, at The Museum of Modern Art as part of its ongoing **PROJECTS** series. Organized by Lynn Zelevansky, curatorial assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture, **PROJECTS: SUZANNE LAFONT** includes work from two recent photographic series, both in color and black and white. The exhibition remains on view through November 15 in the Museum's lower-level René d'Harnoncourt Galleries.

Although Lafont's large and dynamic works concentrate on the face, they are not traditional portraits -- explorations of specific identities -- but investigations into the nature of appearance itself. In her gestural and cinematic series, Lafont attempts to find a purely visual mode of communication. One series included in the exhibition is the black-and-white work, *L'Argent (Money)* of 1991, a tableau consisting of six photographs. As the camera records the furtive exchange of money, image and narrative develop simultaneously.

The exhibition also includes works from Lafont's color series *Choeur de Grimaces (Chorus of Grimaces)* of 1992. These close-up images -- either eerily blank or intensely emotional -- seem to illustrate, rather than depict, the experience of particular feelings.

The artist's most recent work draws from a spectrum of sources from art history, philosophy, and contemporary culture. In her essay for the brochure

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accompanying the exhibition, Ms. Zelevansky writes, "[Lafont's] is an art that embraces dichotomies: modernism and archaism; nature and culture; formalism and expressionism are not seen as mutually exclusive terms. She employs oppositional concepts not as ends in themselves, but rather because they allow her to present an alternative vision unconcerned with the 'truth' of a given approach....Paradox is meant to generate in the viewer a sense of changing circumstances and evolving definitions that corresponds to, and makes immediate, day-to-day experience."

Born in France in 1949, Suzanne Lafont studied literature and philosophy before turning to photography at the age of thirty-three. The artist lives and works in Paris and has participated in numerous single and group exhibitions in Europe. This year, her work was the subject of a one-person exhibition at the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris.

The Museum's **PROJECTS** series, coordinated by Robert Storr, curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, is an interdepartmental effort involving staff from all six curatorial departments. The **PROJECTS** series is made possible by generous grants from the Lannan Foundation, The Bohen Foundation, and The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art. Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by the Association Française d'Action Artistique, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Paris.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Trudy Rosato, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9757.