

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
February 1994

PROJECTS: CHUCK HOBERMAN

February 24 - April 12, 1994

The Museum of Modern Art's next **PROJECTS** exhibition, on view from February 24 through April 12, 1994, explores the process of structural transformation as revealed in the work of American engineer and inventor Chuck Hoberman (b. 1956). Organized by Matilda McQuaid, assistant curator, Department of Architecture and Design, **PROJECTS: CHUCK HOBERMAN** includes a scale model and a full-scale operational section of a sixty-foot-diameter retractable iris dome.

Hoberman's dome, which opens and closes to the sky by expanding and contracting like the iris of an eye, represents a significant structural advance over traditional retractable roofs. The difference lies in its ability to be completely retracted, while remaining structurally stable at any position.

During the past decade, Hoberman has concentrated on the study of deployable or unfolding structures. The first of these studies utilized a range of materials such as metal, paper, plastic, wood, and fabric, which he pleated or hinged so that palm-sized packages were converted into larger, fully-extended units. Such transformation is central to the work in the exhibition. Yet, while mathematically precise, the movement of the anodized aluminum iris dome is as fluid as any in nature, and recalls a time-lapse

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photograph of a flower in bloom. As Matilda McQuaid writes in the exhibition brochure, "the hypnotic and uninterrupted flow of its metamorphosis challenges and stimulates our visual senses."

Hoberman received a Bachelor's degree in sculpture at New York's Cooper Union (1979). After graduating, he worked with the artist Vito Acconci, and went on to receive an M.A. in mechanical engineering at Columbia University (1984). Over the past ten years, Hoberman has designed objects as diverse as space shelters for NASA and small, folding medical instruments.

PROJECTS, a series of exhibitions devoted to the work of contemporary artists, is made possible by generous grants from the Lannan Foundation, The Bohen Foundation, and The Contemporary Arts Council and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art. Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by AT&T, The Greenwall Foundation, the Cooper Union Alumni Association, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Ove Arup & Partners, and Davidson Aluminum and Metal Corporation.

The next exhibition in the series is **PROJECTS: KARIN SANDER**, April 28 - June 14, 1994.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Rynn Williams, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9755.