

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1994

PUBLICATIONS ACCOMPANY *CY TWOMBLY: A RETROSPECTIVE*

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a catalogue to accompany the exhibition *CY TWOMBLY: A RETROSPECTIVE*, on view from September 25, 1994, through January 10, 1995. With an extended essay by Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, and organizer of the exhibition, the publication provides the first full chronological study of the artist's life and the development of his work. *Cy Twombly: A Retrospective* is made possible by a generous gift from Emily Fisher Landau.

A brochure written by Amelia Arenas, describing the exhibition, is available at the entrance to the exhibition; and a large-print version is available in the Education Center. These brochures are made possible by a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. Josef Froehlich, Stuttgart.

In the catalogue essay, Mr. Varnedoe charts the artist's background from his early education in Lexington, Virginia, to his years at the Art Students League of New York. Twombly's early contacts with both the modern European tradition and New York School painting are examined, and the evolution of his own individual style in the mid-1950s is presented. Also discussed is the complex question of Twombly's interaction with European art, as well as the

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artist's fusion of the high European tradition of painters and poets -- from Homer to Poussin to Cavafy -- with the irrepressible impulses of graffiti and children's drawings.

A full-color plate section includes more than fifty of the artist's most important paintings from all phases of his career, including recent works never seen outside the studio and several earlier important works not previously published. A dozen sculptures, ranging from the artist's early assemblages of the 1940s to the work of recent years are also reproduced, as well as more than forty works on paper.

Published by The Museum of Modern Art, *Cy Twombly: A Retrospective* contains 180 pages and 187 illustrations (94 in color). The hardbound edition (\$55.00), distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and the paperbound edition (\$29.95) are available at The MoMA Book Store.

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