

The Museum of Modern Art

227
For Immediate Release
October 1994

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PUBLISHES CD-ROM OF ILLUSTRATED BOOKS COLLECTION

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing its first CD-ROM catalogue of an important aspect of its holdings -- the illustrated book -- in conjunction with the exhibition **A CENTURY OF ARTISTS BOOKS** (October 23, 1994, to January 24, 1995). Under the direction of Riva Castleman, Chief Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, *Illustrated Books from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art* documents one of the foremost collections of its kind, with 1,264 volumes by both modern and contemporary artists. It is also the Museum's first attempt to make collection data available to scholars and students in this new form.

Cataloguing of the illustrated books collection was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Mrs. Arthur Stanton, The Philip and Lynn Straus Foundation, and the Cowles Charitable Trust. Preparation and production of the CD-ROM was made possible by a grant from the David and Reba Williams Foundation.

The cataloguing project, which began in the late 1980s, developed an accurate and complete description of each book in the Museum's collection. With a capacity to house a great volume of information, the CD-ROM format could expand the horizons of the book form by offering instant access to more than 120,000 individual entries and by allowing searches to be performed using a variety of options. Together with *A Century of Artists Books*, the richly illustrated catalogue accompanying the exhibition, *Illustrated Books from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art* creates a vivid record of the Museum's holdings.

- more -

The CD-ROM provides clear and concise documentation for each book, and includes detailed descriptions of all plates and decorative elements created by artists (headpieces, tailpieces, and pictorial initials), unique supplementary non-printed material (such as drawings or watercolor embellishments), pagination, and each print's function, location, medium, and measurement. Provenance and bibliographical references provide additional information.

Also included are an introductory text with instructions for the program's use; a comprehensive glossary of print mediums with cross-references, illustration functions, binding terms, and other specialized bibliographic terminology; a selected bibliography for illustrated books; complete references to the catalogue raisonné of individual artists; and copyright information.

Compiled by Carol Smith, Research Assistant, and edited by Audrey Isselbacher, former Associate Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, *Illustrated Books from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art* will be published in November 1994. Five hundred copies of the CD-ROM are available for distribution to select libraries, universities, and museums, free of charge. The catalogue may be purchased from the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.

* * *

No. 55.2

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