

# The Museum of Modern Art

2/82  
For Immediate Release  
November 1994

## **PROJECTS: ANN HAMILTON**

Through January 3, 1995

The Museum of Modern Art's next **PROJECTS** exhibition, currently on view through January 3, 1995, is a new, site-specific installation by American artist Ann Hamilton (b. 1956). Organized by Robert Storr, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, **PROJECTS: ANN HAMILTON** reveals the artist's interest in the relationship between sight and touch, and the ability of an image to challenge the habits of our perceptions.

Hamilton's installation, which is entitled *Seam*, presents in her words "a giant picture of touch" and marks the first time she has used large-format video as a central focus of her work. Projected on a screen is a thirty-minute sequence showing the artist's greatly enlarged, ink-stained index finger rubbing honey over a transparent surface. In front of the screen, at an awkward viewing distance from the image, Hamilton has placed two long wooden benches mounded with hundreds of variegated red rags.

"Simultaneously evoking the painterly application and erasure of pigment, and a churning organism in a strange, viscous environment, Hamilton's close-up image and its oddly scaled viewing room are at once mesmerizing and disorienting, simple and uncanny," states Mr. Storr.

Installation is Hamilton's primary medium. Each new location inspires a specific, improvised response. The spare environment she has created for **PROJECTS** deliberately contrasts with her previous, generally more elaborate works. These were usually characterized by either the actual presence or

- more -

suggested absence of a protagonist, and employed a lavish quantity of rich and sensuous materials. *Parallel Lines*, for example, which she created in 1991 for the twenty-first International São Paulo Bienal, featured a ship-length cradle of votive candles, floors tiled with thousands of copper tokens, and twin glass cases containing the moldering carcasses of a pair of turkeys.

Born in Lima, Ohio, Ann Hamilton currently resides in Columbus. After completing a B.F.A. in textile design in 1979 at the University of Kansas, she began her career as a weaver. In 1985 she received an M.F.A. in sculpture at Yale University, where she did her first performances using herself as a mobile base for her sculpture. Since then Hamilton has created more than a dozen major installations in this country and abroad. Her most recent one-person exhibition was at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, in 1994.

**PROJECTS**, a series of exhibitions devoted to the work of contemporary artists, is made possible by grants from The Bohen Foundation and The Contemporary Arts Council and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

The next exhibition in the series is **PROJECTS: NANCY RUBINS**, on view from late January to mid-March 1995.

\* \* \*

No. 66

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