MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES ANNETTE MESSAGER

A major catalogue accompanies the exhibition ANNETTE MESSAGER, the first Museum retrospective of the artist’s work in the United States, on view from October 12, 1995, to January 16, 1996. With extended essays by the exhibition’s coorganizers, Sheryl Conkelton, Associate Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, and Carol S. Eliel, Associate Curator, Twentieth-Century Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Annette Messager provides a critical study of the artist’s life and the development of her work, including her diverse sources and influences.

The authors, who have worked closely with Messager in preparing the exhibition and the book, introduce her unique talent and provide a rich intellectual context for understanding her work. In her essay, Ms. Conkelton describes Messager’s work as alternating between a quiet, almost religious reverence and wild, often sexual escapade, conjuring a visiting carnival in which normal life is disrupted and all expectations are turned upside down. In Ms. Eliel’s essay, Messager’s diverse sources and influences are brought to light, including the incorporation of Surrealist ideas and issues of social normalcy and morality.


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For further information or photographic materials, contact Mary-Anne Smith, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.