

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1996

MICHAEL SCHMIDT: U-NI-TY

January 18 - March 26, 1996

The premier exhibition of an important new body of work by leading German photographer Michael Schmidt (b. 1945) opens at The Museum of Modern Art on January 18, 1996. **MICHAEL SCHMIDT: U-NI-TY**, featuring approximately 100 black-and-white photographs made between 1991 and 1994, is a meditation on national identity and history, prompted by the reunification of East and West Germany. The exhibition was jointly organized by Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, and Thomas Weski, Curator of Photography and Media, Sprengel Museum Hannover, Germany.

After the wall between East and West Germany was destroyed in 1989, the rapid political reunification of the country was greeted with euphoria. However, psychological and cultural reunification has proved to be a much slower and more difficult process. Michael Schmidt, a lifelong Berlin resident, approaches that anxious process in part by reflecting on Germany's past.

About half of the works featured in the exhibition are Schmidt's own photographs; the remainder are photographs he made from other photographs culled from newspapers, magazines, propaganda pamphlets, and other such sources. The pictures are carefully sequenced to interact with one another, but they are presented without captions. As a result, the meanings of

-more-

