

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

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## AN UNPRECEDENTED SURVEY OF THE 20TH-CENTURY STILL LIFE TO BE HELD AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

- EXHIBITION** *Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life*
- DATES** May 18–September 2, 1997
- ORGANIZATION** Organized by Margit Rowell, Chief Curator, Department of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art
- SUMMARY** This first extensive survey of the modern still life traces the international development of the genre, and reveals the extraordinary innovations that modern artists have introduced to the 400-year-old tradition of still-life painting. *Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life* demonstrates how a diverse group of modern artists has engaged, developed, and transgressed the idea and genre of the classical still life. Beginning with Paul Cézanne's *Still Life with a Ginger Jar and Eggplants* (1890–94), this provocative survey consists of some 150 paintings, sculptures, and objects created by more than 70 European and American artists (see attached list). These include masterpieces by Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso from the first half of the 20th century; avant-garde experiments from World War I through the 1950s by Dada, Metaphysical, and Surrealist artists; and finally Pop art and contemporary work from the 1960s through the present. Through its examination of the still-life genre, this wide-ranging exhibition offers an innovative overview of the art of this century.
- Organized thematically, *Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life* is unprecedented in style and scope. Unique juxtapositions or groupings of works provide key insights into the formal inventions of the avant-garde and the evolving language of modern art. The exhibition also reflects the important messages conveyed by these works about the relationship between art, society, and its objects, and the range of meanings—symbolic, moral, romantic, mythic, sexual—they embody. By encompassing works not traditionally considered still life, such as Marcel Duchamp's ready-mades, Joseph Cornell's boxes, and works by Allan McCollum and Kiki Smith, the exhibition expands the boundaries of the genre.

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## PUBLICATION

*Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life*, by Margit Rowell, accompanies the exhibition. The fully illustrated catalogue contains an essay by Ms. Rowell and is published by The Museum of Modern Art. Clothbound, \$50.00, distributed by Harry N. Abrams, New York, and paperbound, \$29.95, are both available in The MoMA Book Store.

## TRAVEL

The exhibition will travel to the Hayward Gallery, London (October 7, 1997–January 4, 1998).

Artists included in the exhibition:

Arman  
Iwan Babij  
Georg Baselitz  
Max Beckmann  
Umberto Boccioni  
Georges Braque  
Marcel Broodthaers  
Patrick Henry Bruce  
Carlo Carra  
Paul Cézanne  
Marc Chagall  
Christo  
Le Corbusier  
Joseph Cornell  
Tony Cragg  
Salvador Dali  
Stuart Davis  
Giorgio de Chirico  
André Derain  
Jim Dine  
Jean Dubuffet  
Marcel Duchamp  
Raoul Dufy  
James Ensor  
Dan Flavin  
Lucio Fontana  
Domenico Gnoli  
Robert Gober  
Juan Gris  
Philip Guston  
Richard Hamilton  
Alexei von Jawlensky  
Jasper Johns  
Frida Kahlo  
Paul Klee  
Jeff Koons

Wolfgang Laib  
Mikhail Larionov  
Henri Laurens  
Fernand Léger  
Roy Lichtenstein  
Alberto Magnelli  
René Magritte  
Man Ray  
Piero Manzoni  
Henri Matisse  
Allan McCollum  
Mario Merz  
Joan Miró  
Piet Mondrian  
Giorgio Morandi  
Robert Morris  
Gerald Murphy  
Claes Oldenburg  
Meret Oppenheim  
Amédée Ozenfant  
Francis Picabia  
Pablo Picasso  
Iwan Puni  
Robert Rauschenberg  
Charles Ray  
Odilon Redon  
Gerhard Richter  
Ed Ruscha  
Morton Schamberg  
Cindy Sherman  
Kiki Smith  
Chaim Soutine  
Daniel Spoerri  
Robert Therrien  
Andy Warhol