

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PRINT EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FOCUSES ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LANDFALL PRESS TO CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING

A Singular Vision: Prints From Landfall Press
February 6–May 6, 1997

In honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Landfall Press, The Museum of Modern Art presents the exhibition *A Singular Vision: Prints From Landfall Press*. Opening February 6, 1997, this exhibition celebrates the role of adventurous and innovative publishers in the creation of printed art by focusing on the Chicago-based Landfall Press. Established by Jack Lemon in 1970, Landfall has created prints with more than eighty established and emerging artists over the last twenty-five years. The thirty works presented here by some twenty artists demonstrate the unique vision that Lemon has brought to the choice of artists and range of projects produced at Landfall. On view through May 6, 1997, the exhibition is the sixth in a series exploring the importance of various publishers in the enterprise of printmaking.

"Lemon seems to find artists with decidedly personal visions no matter where he looks. Because so many artists have continued to collaborate with Lemon on a long-term basis, he has been able to provide them with the opportunity to make printmaking integral to their creative process," remarks Andrea Feldman, Assistant Curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, who organized the exhibition. "In this exhibition the versatility and scope of the works executed at Landfall Press is evident."

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The works chosen span the twenty-five years the press has been in operation. Earliest among them are works informed by the personal experiences of William T. Wiley and H. C. Westermann. Two of Landfall's most recent projects will also be on view: Ed Paschke's first illustrated book, which reveals his idiosyncratic vision, and Kara Walker's newest prints, which confront historic racial injustices.

The artists represented in the exhibition highlight the diversity and scope of prints produced by Landfall Press (see attached list). Lemon has paid particular attention to artists outside the mainstream, New York-based art world, working with many of the Chicago artists whose work is based on fantastic imagination, irony, folk art associations, and a relationship between playful form and potent content. This unique vision is reflected in the prints of Roger Brown, whose works combine cartoon-like imagery, stylized structure, and, often, political content. Lemon is also attracted to the work of artists like Robert Arneson, Luis Jiménez, and Peter Saul, who exhibit strong draftsmanship combined with humor, irony, or biting satire. Conceptually based works with implicit storytelling components, such as those by Vito Acconci, Allen Ruppersberg, and Alexis Smith, have also been produced at Landfall.

Lemon's openness in encouraging artists to make innovative use of the print medium has led to collaborations not only with painters but also sculptors and artists who work in other media. In her work with Landfall Press, Lesley Dill, for example, combines the traditional print techniques of lithography, etching, and woodcut but also merges them with sewing.

Jack Lemon began his career as a printer in the mid-1960s at the historic Tamarind Lithography Workshop, a training ground for lithography printing. After establishing two workshops in university settings—at the Kansas City Art Institute and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design—he eventually set up his own shop in Chicago with the support of gallery owner Allan Frumkin. Although initially dedicated solely to lithography, Lemon eventually introduced etching, photo-based mediums, woodcut, and screenprinting in order to allow artists to experiment with a variety of technical possibilities.

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For further information contact Uri Perrin, Department of Communications, 212/708-9757.

Artists represented in *A Singular Vision: Prints from Landfall Press*:

- Vito Acconci
- Terry Allen
- Robert Arneson
- Roger Brown
- Robert Cottingham
- Lesley Dill
- Vernon Fisher
- Luis Jiménez
- Ronald Jones
- Dennis Oppenheim
- Ed Paschke
- Allen Ruppersberg
- Peter Saul
- Alexis Smith
- Pat Steir
- Kara Walker
- H. C. Westermann
- William T. Wiley