

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Museum of Modern Art affiliate

22-25 Jackson Ave at 46th Ave

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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

1969

October 25, 2009 through April 5, 2010

Opening Day Celebration: Sunday, October 25, 2009, 12-6PM

(Long Island City, NY — September 30, 2009) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents *1969*, a large scale exhibition occupying the entire second floor with works drawn from every department of The Museum of Modern Art. Exploring a cross section of art made during a period marked with revolution and socio-political tumult, this exhibition also will embrace five interventions by a current generation of artists whose work reflects the concerns of 1969 and brings the exhibition into the present. These younger artists will be given free reign to respond to the works on view and to the time period in general.

1969 is organized by a team of curators representing both institutions and includes MoMA's archivist. One of the questions that shaped this exhibition early on was whether the customary curatorial approach of P.S.1, with its fast-paced process and focus on living artists as well as the rustic architecture of the former schoolhouse, would offer a different visual setting for work ordinarily seen in the minimal white galleries of MoMA. This exhibition includes examples of painting, sculpture, photography, print, illustrated books, design, drawing, media, and film as well as a wealth of documents drawn from MoMA's archives.

Diverse artistic practices, concerns, and themes are presented ranging from the minimalist sculpture of Sol LeWitt and Carl Andre, abstract painting and drawing of Helen Frankenthaler and Gego, to films by Walter de Maria and Michael Snow, and politically charged works of the Art Workers Coalition and Martha Rosler. By exploring a single year, this exhibition is not an attempt to recount the events of 1969, but rather, to present a variety of works made in a single year, each one with its own narrative and point of view. Clearly, the exhibition also outlines MoMA's own collecting history; as such, it is part of a cross-departmental curatorial examination of MoMA's collection with an eye to expanding the range of its holdings from a period when art was being redefined.

Several of the featured works from the collection will be exhibited for the first time, including pieces by major artists like Robert Barry, Mel Bochner, Lutz Mommartz, Bruce Nauman, and John Wesley. In addition, Mel Bochner's room-sized installation, *Theory of Painting*, marks not only its debut at P.S.1 and MoMA, but the first time it will be realized in New York City. The exhibition will also include new acquisitions of Fluxus works which form part of a recent donation to MoMA from the Gilbert and Lila Silverman Fluxus Collection.

Central to the exhibition is the re-staging of MoMA's 1969 exhibition, *Five Recent Acquisitions*, organized by noted MoMA curator Kynaston McShine, highlighting then-recently acquired works by Larry Bell, Ron Davis, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, and John McCracken. This exhibition within an exhibition is further contextualized by photographs by Gary Winogrand and Lee Friedlander, among others, in addition to exhibition catalogs, books, and archival documents which depict the events, excitement, and anxieties of the period. By juxtaposing the meditative space of the white cube gallery of the transplanted MoMA exhibition with the tumult of the outside world, *1969* reflects the expansive concerns held by artists of the time. Archival materials document MoMA's relationship with and involvement in the momentous events of the time.

Similar to the presentation of *Five Recent Acquisitions*, a younger group of artists will create interventions within the galleries that highlight, reflect, and disrupt the collection show. The intervention artworks will speak to themes both present and absent from the exhibition, such as NASA's lunar landing, the legacy of iconic post-war artists like Joseph Beuys and Robert Morris, the rise of collaborative artistic practices, and the cultural and political affects of the Civil Rights movement. The artists acting as commentators are Base, The Bruce High Quality Foundation, Mathew Day Jackson and David Tompkins, Stephanie Syjuco, and Hank Willis Thomas.

Artists include: Vito Acconci; Robert Adams; Ryoji Akiyama; Carl Andre; Keith Arnatt; Richard Artschwager; Richard Avedon; Lewis Baltz; Robert Barry; Larry Bell; Mel Bochner; Marcel Broodthaers; Scott Burton; James Lee Byars; John Cage; Vija Celmins; Ron Davis; Walter De Maria; Agnes Denes; Jan Dibbets; Fluxus; Helen Frankenthaler; Lee Friedlander; Gego; Guerrilla Art Action Group; Philip Guston; R. L. Haeberle, Art Workers Coalition and Peter Brandt; Richard Hamilton; Strike Poster Workshop, Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Douglas Huebler, Robert Irwin; Jasper Johns; Ray Johnson; Donald Judd; Stephen Kaltenbach; Craig Kauffman; Joseph Kosuth; Standish Lawder; Sol LeWitt; Lee Lozano; George Maciunas; John McCracken; Lutz Mommartz; NASA; Bruce Nauman; Claes Oldenburg; Dennis Oppenheim; Nam June Paik; Richard Pettibone; Adrian Piper; Arnulf Rainer; Ely Raman; Robert Rauschenberg; Gerhard Richter; Martha Rosler; Dieter Roth; Edward Rusha; Rudolf Schwarzkogler; Seth Seigelaub; Richard Serra; Joel Shapiro; Robert Smithson and Nancy Holt; Michael Snow; Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg, David Novros, Forrest Myers, Robert Rauschenberg, and John Chamberlain; Lawrence Weiner; John Wesley; Christopher Wilmarth; and Gary Winogrand.

Organized by Neville Wakefield, P.S.1 Senior Curatorial Advisor; Michelle Elligott, MoMA Archivist; and Eva Respini, MoMA Associate Curator of Photography.

The exhibition is supported by MoMA's Wallis Annenberg Fund for Innovation in Contemporary Art through the Annenberg Foundation, The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art, and Sally and Wynn Kramarsky.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; the New York State Assembly; and the P.S.1 Annual Fund, Annual Exhibition Fund, Business Circle, and The Student Body. The P.S.1 Annual Fund is supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, David Teiger, Union Beer Distributors, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Galerie Lelong, E. William Judson, Jane K. Lombard, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Barbara Gladstone, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, The Herman Liebmann Foundation, Bobby Kopp + Co. Productions, and other donors.

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P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center's institutional archives were established with generous founding support from the Leon Levy Foundation.

Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:

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