

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES GROUP OF MAJOR ACQUISITIONS, INCLUDING NEW SERIES OF PAINTINGS BY GERHARD RICHTER

Works by Elizabeth Murray, Luc Tuymans, Roni Horn, Sérgio Camargo, and Mira Schendel Also Enter the Collection

NEW YORK, March 6, 2006—The Museum of Modern Art has acquired a group of significant works of modern and contemporary art, Museum Director Glenn D. Lowry announced today. The acquisitions include a major new series by Gerhard Richter, *892-1-12, Abstract Paintings* (2005), comprising 12 abstract paintings; a painting by Elizabeth Murray, *Do the Dance* (2005); two paintings by Luc Tuymans, *Demolition* and *The Secretary of State* (both 2005); a glass sculpture by Roni Horn, *Untitled (Aretha)* (2002-04); a sculpture by Sérgio Camargo, *Orée* (c. 1962); and an untitled 1963 painting by Mira Schendel.

“The Museum is delighted to acquire such an exciting and dynamic group of works,” Mr. Lowry said. “We are profoundly grateful to our Trustees and donors for their enlightened generosity and their interest in strengthening the Museum’s commitment to these important artists. These gifts will ensure a wide public audience for these artists far into the future.”

John Elderfield, The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, says, “The extraordinary body of works acquired this month are extremely important to our understanding of the dynamic continuum of modern and contemporary art. These works demonstrate the continuing vitality of painting as an artistic means of expression and provide nuance and depth to the Museum’s holdings of these artists.”

Gerhard Richter (German, b. 1932) is considered among the most important European artists working today. This new series of 12 paintings represents a key, climactic moment in Richter’s long and prolific career. The narrative sequence begins with a relatively quiet composition of muted grays and builds to a crescendo of fiery reds, oranges, yellows, and blues, and before subsiding to a sober contemplative palette by the end. The numeric title refers to the artist’s practice of tracking the total number of his paintings, indicating this series as the eight hundred ninety-second in his paintings oeuvre. The Museum’s collection also includes 23 paintings, 28 drawings, 50 prints, and three illustrated books by Richter, spanning the years 1963 to 2000.

The continually evolving career of Elizabeth Murray (American, b. 1940) was the subject of a retrospective at MoMA in fall 2005. *Do the Dance* was the final painting in the exhibition, representing the distinctive format and vocabulary of Murray’s recent years. Extending her signature multipaneled approach into a loose jigsaw puzzle of many elements that “do the dance,” as the title suggests, Murray endows the large-scale painting with a playful quality informed by a stunning formal intelligence. A full set of nine preparatory drawings for *Do the Dance* was also acquired by the Department of Drawings. MoMA holds seven other of Murray’s paintings that range in date from 1976 to 1990, eight drawings, 53 prints, and one illustrated book.

Luc Tuymans (Belgian, b. 1958) is widely considered among the most influential artists of his generation and the foremost heir and challenger to the legacy of Gerhard Richter. A major preoccupation of his work concerns contemporary politics and historic events. The two paintings acquired belong to Tuymans's most recent body of work, focusing on American society today. In *The Secretary of State*, Tuymans utilizes the traditional genre of portraiture to depict Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State. The scale of the painting and its tight cropping dramatically exaggerate the Rice's instantly recognizable image. In *Demolition*, Tuymans creates a vision of large-scale destruction in an urban setting. Rendered in an extravagantly painterly style, *Demolition* recalls such artistic forebears as J.M.W. Turner and Paul Cézanne with its ambiguous co-existence of abstraction and narrative. MoMA holds two other paintings by Tuymans, as well as nine drawings and one multiple.

Roni Horn (American, b. 1955) occupies a critical position within her generation whose work engages with the aesthetics of Minimalism and Post-Minimalism yet introduces narrative content into abstract form. *Untitled (Aretha)* is among the artist's most recent in a limited series of glass sculptures. Cast from richly colored, blood-red optical glass, *Aretha's* upper surface is mirror smooth and fire polished, while its four sides register the irregularities and imperfections produced by the mold. Its title conjures the rich sounds of Aretha Franklin, the legendary vocalist. The Museum holds four additional works of painting and sculpture, six drawings, five journals, four prints, and one illustrated book.

Sérgio Camargo (Brazilian, 1930-1990), an artist new to the MoMA collection, is one of the most important modern sculptors in Latin America and Europe. *Orée*, created from wood and paint on carved wood, is a fundamental piece in Camargo's mature work. The sculpture demonstrates a rigorous focus on materiality: the natural qualities of the dark wood are juxtaposed with the painted and elaborately carved relief panel.

Mira Schendel (Brazilian, born Switzerland, 1919-1988) is one of the major figures of postwar Brazilian art. The untitled tempera on canvas is a shimmering violet monochromatic work with suggestions of geometric planes, blending visual density and complex pictorial effects. Schendel is represented in the Museum's collection with 28 drawings and one sculpture. This is the first painting by Schendel to enter the collection.

The new acquisitions comprise a Museum purchase and gifts. The Gerhard Richter series is a fractional and promised gift of Leonard and Susan Feinstein and Warren and Mitzi Eisenberg. The painting *Do the Dance* by Elizabeth Murray is a gift of Ronald Lauder, Agnes Gund, and Arne and Milly Glimcher, and the set of drawings is donated by Arne and Milly Glimcher. *Demolition* by Luc Tuymans is a fractional and promised gift from Leonard and Susan Feinstein, and *The Secretary of State*, also by Tuymans, is a fractional and promised gift of David and Monica Zwirner. The Roni Horn sculpture is a fractional and promised gift of Kathy and Richard S. Fuld.

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