

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT ACQUISITIONS
IN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

Superb Group of Acquisitions Includes Major, Room-sized Installation by Robert Gober as well as Key Works by Lee Bontecou, Alberto Giacometti, Eva Hesse, Joan Miró, and Bridget Riley

New York, May 13, 2005—The Museum of Modern Art has acquired an important group of works of painting and sculpture, Museum Director Glenn D. Lowry has announced, representing key periods in the careers of modern and contemporary masters, as well as recent works by those emerging from a new generation of artists.

“The Museum is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a major room installation by Robert Gober and superb examples of work by Lee Bontecou, Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miró, Bridget Riley, and others to enhance our holdings and deepen our commitment to acquiring the finest examples of modern and contemporary art,” said Mr. Lowry. “We are grateful for the generosity of the trustees and artists who made this possible.”

Gober’s *Untitled Installation* (2005) is the first full-scale installation by the artist to be acquired by the Museum, which holds ten of the artist’s sculptures and a strong selection of his works on paper. Its acquisition demonstrates the Museum’s ongoing commitment to one of the most compelling artistic careers of our time.

John Elderfield, the Museum’s Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, said, “The privilege of continually building the MoMA collection allows us to reconsider our understanding of modern art through new and provocative points of view. The Museum is most fortunate to have the opportunity to acquire works of this magnitude and quality.”

Ann Temkin, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, said, “Robert Gober’s new installation dramatically enriches the Museum’s holdings of one of the most fascinating and challenging artists of our era. The installation extends the formal and psychological preoccupations that have informed Gober’s work for more than twenty years into new and unexpected realms.”

Other important acquisitions include: two plaster sculptures by Giacometti, *Gazing Head (Tête qui regarde)* [1928-29] and *Head-Skull (Tête-crane)* [1933-34] both of which underscore the Museum’s longstanding commitment to Giacometti’s art, as the first museum to acquire one of his works; *Solar Bird* (1966) by Miró, one of the artist’s most important sculptures and a companion piece to *Moonbird* (1966), also in MoMA’s collection; and *Ringaround Rosie* (1965) by Hesse, one of the 1960s’ most innovative and influential artists, a sculpture made to hang on a wall and a direct testament to the transition of Hesse’s focus from painting to sculpture. The Museum has also acquired *Untitled*, a vertical stripe painting by Riley, from her so-called Egyptian

series, begun in the early 1980s and finished in the last several years, reflecting the Museum's desire to keep pace with the recent work of artists to whom it has made strong early commitments. One of Riley's peers, the Op artist Julian Stanczak, is entering the collection for the first time with *The Duel* (1963).

Two of the new acquisitions have been on recent view in MoMA exhibitions. A hanging sculpture by Bontecou, *Untitled* (c. 1980-98), remarkable for its scale and complexity, was exhibited at MoMA QNS in 2004 in *Lee Bontecou: A Retrospective*. A cabinet by Mark Dion containing artifacts from the excavated Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden was exhibited in *Rescue Archaeology—A Project for The Museum of Modern Art* in November 2004 for the Museum's reopening.

Recent works by younger European and American artists are entering the collection for the first time. *Oh! Soldier!* (2005) by Sarah Lucas, an artist associated with the Young British Artists group, is a sculpture composed of commonplace objects that deals with the complex issues of gender and sexuality with a distinctly humorous touch. In *Awning 2* (2004), the German artist Eberhard Havekost investigates the relationship between painting and photography. *Presentation* (2005) by New York-based artist Dana Schutz has received widespread critical and popular acclaim, and is currently on view in *Greater New York 2005* at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, a MoMA affiliate.

The group of acquisitions represents purchases with Museum funds and gifts. The *Untitled* Goyer installation is a gift of Maja Oeri and Hans Bodenmann. Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis made fractional and promised gifts of the Giacometti sculptures. Miró's *Solar Bird* is a gift of CIGNA. *Ringaround Arosie* by Eva Hesse is a fractional and promised gift of Kathy Fuld. *Untitled* by Bridget Riley is a gift of Sid and Mercedes Bass. Michael and Judy Ovitz made fractional and promised gifts of Havekost's *Awning 2* and Schutz's *Presentation*. Agnes Gund made a gift of Stanczak's *The Duel*. Mark Dion's *Cabinet* is a gift of the Freedman family in memory of Doris C. and Alan J. Freedman.

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No. 41

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