

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES JUDITH ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY DRAWINGS IN LARGEST GIFT MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT**

**Nearly 2,600 Works by More Than 640 Artists Greatly Enhance Museum Holdings and Present a Panorama of Contemporary Drawing**

**New York, May 20, 2005**—In the largest gift ever made to the Department of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art has acquired the Judith Rothschild Foundation Collection of Contemporary Drawings, MoMA Director Glenn D. Lowry announced. The collection was formed over the past two years by the Foundation's sole trustee, Harvey S. Shipley Miller, who is also a MoMA Trustee, in consultation with Gary Garrels, The Robert Lehman Foundation Chief Curator of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art, and Andre Schlechtriem, Curator, Contemporary Drawings Collection for the Foundation.

The gift comprises nearly 2,600 works by more than 640 artists and includes work by major artists who are represented in the Museum's collection, as well as works by emerging artists entering the collection for the first time. The goal was to assemble the widest possible cross section of contemporary drawing made primarily within the past 20 years, surveying gestural and geometric abstraction, representation and figuration, and systems-based and conceptual work. Ranging in date from the 1930s to 2004, the works vary in size from the tiny—as in an actual size rendering of a fly by Tom Friedman—to the monumental, as in a 16-foot-long drawing by Tacita Dean, and an installation by Jim Lambie that spans four walls of a room. Highlights of the collection will be presented in a future exhibition and a catalogue.

The collection focuses on the work of artists living and working in what are widely regarded as the four major centers of visual art today—New York, Los Angeles, London/Glasgow, and Berlin/Cologne/Dusseldorf—but also includes artists from 30 countries throughout Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Some artists, such as Jasper Johns and Ellsworth Kelly, are represented by superb examples of recent work; others, such as Joseph Beuys and Philip Guston, are highlighted through core groupings; and still others—Ray Johnson, Anish Kapoor, Brice Marden, Franz West, and Hannah Wilke—are shown in a comprehensive overview of their careers.

The Rothschild collection has been loosely organized into categories of time period, movements, and geographic location. Highlights include works by Alighiero e Boetti, Kai Althoff, Lee Bontecou, Vija Celmins, Richard Hamilton, Eva Hesse, Martin Kippenberger, Roy Lichtenstein, Agnes Martin, Elizabeth Murray, Neo Rauch, Cy Twombly, and Hannah Wilke. This gift presents artists who are new to the Drawings collection, but have been long sought by the department: Robert Bechtle, Robert Crumb, Isa Genzken, Jess, Imi Knoebel, Ree Morton, Adrian Piper, and John Wesley, among many others. Exceptional holdings of Minimal and Conceptual drawing from the 1960s and 1970s complement the Museum's collection. The gift also includes excellent works

by self-taught artists such as Henry Darger, Ele D'Artagnan, and Pearl Blauvelt, who are all new to the MoMA Drawings collection.

"This superb gift from the Judith Rothschild Foundation demonstrates the richness and complexity of the medium of drawing and its central position in the artistic process," Mr. Lowry said. "The collection has been meticulously assembled to deepen and complement our existing holdings and to anticipate future developments at a level that would take years for the Museum to accomplish alone. The Museum is grateful for the generosity of the Foundation and tireless efforts of Harvey Shipley Miller, Gary Garrels, and Andre Schlechtriem."

Mr. Garrels commented, "The gift of the Rothschild Collection transforms the Museum's collection of drawings beyond any level I could ever have imagined, adding works of a quality, range, and depth that catapult the Museum's collection into an unequaled position for contemporary drawing. Only in decades to come will the full significance of this gift be able to be fully assessed and understood, but it is among the most important gifts in the Museum's history."

"The Contemporary Drawings Collection project grew out of Judith Rothschild's commitment to supporting the work of her contemporaries," said Mr. Miller. "An attempt was made to include every approach to mark making on paper internationally, from young emerging artists to mid-career and modern masters. The collection represents a crystallization of the state of a specific medium at the turn of the century. As such, it forms a carefully crafted time capsule or 'core sample' of what was out and about in the world of contemporary drawings in a two-year period of active engagement."

Mr. Miller was instrumental in coordinating the Foundation's gift to the Museum in 2001 of more than 1,100 Russian avant-garde illustrated books and 100 related works. Selections from the gift were exhibited at MoMA in spring 2002 in *The Russian Avant-Garde Book 1910-1934*. Mr. Miller has been a MoMA Trustee since 2003 and is an active committee member supporting the departments of Drawings, Painting and Sculpture, and Prints and Illustrated Books. He is also a member of the Committee on Museum Archives, Library, and Research; the Library Council; and Friends of Contemporary Drawing. Mr. Miller is Vice Chairman and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is a member of the Trustees' Council of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

### **About the Judith Rothschild Foundation**

The Judith Rothschild Foundation, a private charitable operating foundation, oversees special projects, makes grants to present, preserve, or interpret work of the highest aesthetic merit by lesser-known American painters, sculptors, and photographers who have died after September 12, 1976, and is responsible for the stewardship of Judith Rothschild's own work. Special projects have included the organization of focused collections, including the Russian avant-garde book collection donated to MoMA, and the Cubist prints of Jacques Villon, donated to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Examples of grants include support for the organization of exhibitions; the acquisition of works of art for display and study in museums and public galleries; the development

of accompanying public programs, films, or videos; the preparation of publications; scholarly and critical pursuits; and, the conservation, cataloguing, and safe-keeping of works of art. The Foundation also holds a collection of European masterworks.

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