

**NOTED AUTHOR CALVIN TOMKINS DONATES VAST BODY OF RESEARCH MATERIALS TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART****Gift Represents Tomkins's Career of Writing about the Arts; Will Enhance Museum Archives Role as Scholarly Resource**

NEW YORK, October 2002—The author Calvin Tomkins has donated a body of research materials amassed over his 40-plus-year career as a noted chronicler of the arts, to the Museum Archives at The Museum of Modern Art, it was announced today by MoMA Director Glenn D. Lowry. The rich trove of original materials given to the Museum this summer includes manuscript drafts, correspondence, and extensive transcripts of interviews with leading artists, curators, architects, and photographers of the past four decades, and will include research materials from Tomkins's current and future projects. The gift supports the Archives' mission to acquire unpublished collections of material that are important to the history and development of modern art and directly complement the Museum's holdings. Once catalogued, the Tomkins Papers will serve as an incomparable public resource for the study of modern and contemporary art.

"I am delighted that Calvin Tomkins has chosen MoMA to be the repository of his archival materials, a body of research that informed a literary career for which Mr. Tomkins is justly renowned," says Mr. Lowry. "Access to this material will enable future scholars to more fully understand the creation and interpretation of modern and contemporary art."

Milan Hughston, Chief of the Library and Museum Archives at MoMA, says, "The addition of the Tomkins Papers will significantly augment the Museum Archives' post-World War II research collections—an area that we are particularly interested in developing."

Over the course of his distinguished career as a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and author of numerous books on modern art, Mr. Tomkins has earned a loyal readership for incisive coverage of the arts, in particular for the in-depth *New Yorker* profiles for which he conducts voluminous research. Since he joined the magazine in 1960, he has written scores of articles on notable individuals, including pieces on William S. Rubin, former Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at MoMA, as well as his successor, Kirk Varnedoe. Mr. Tomkins has also written about Marcel Duchamp, Georgia O'Keeffe, Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Serra, Paul Strand, Philip Johnson, Merce Cunningham, Andreas Gursky, and Cindy Sherman, who are all represented in the donated materials.

Mr. Tomkins has a particular expertise in the work of Marcel Duchamp that began in 1959 when he interviewed Duchamp for *Newsweek* magazine, where Mr. Tomkins worked as an editor. For the next three decades, he continued to explore Duchamp's impact on contemporary art and used the Museum Archives to conduct research for *Duchamp: A Biography* (1996). He also authored *Post- to Neo-: the Art World of the 1980s* (1988);

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Off the Wall: Robert Rauschenberg and the Art World of Our Time (1980); and *The Scene: Reports on Post-Modern Art* (1976). Mr. Tomkins completed his undergraduate degree at Princeton University and received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1978. He was one of the founding members of the Advisory Committee on Museum Archives, Library and Research at MoMA, which was established in 1997.

About the Museum Archives

The Museum Archives is an international center of research for the study of modern and contemporary art, accessible to the public by appointment at MoMA QNS, the Museum's current exhibition, research, and storage facility in Long Island City. The Museum Archives was established in 1989 to organize, preserve, and make accessible the Museum's historical records. In 1998, the Museum Archives expanded its mission to include the acquisition of manuscript collections from sources outside the Museum that are important to the development of modern and contemporary art. These collections consist of primary source material, including correspondence, manuscripts, research materials, photographs, financial records, scrapbooks, diaries, audio-visual recordings, press clippings, and printed ephemera.

The Tomkins Papers will join other manuscript collections in the Museum Archives, notably the papers of Richard Bellamy, the influential New York-based art dealer, who was instrumental in the early 1960s in introducing the work of many emerging artists who would go on to important careers, including Mark di Suvero, Donald Judd, Yayoi Kusama, James Rosenquist, and Tom Wesselman. For more information or to make an appointment with the Museum Archives, the public may call 212/708-9617.

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