

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES ACQUISITIONS OF WORKS BY FRANCIS ALÿS, LOUISE BOURGEOIS, ANDREAS GURSKY, JASPER JOHNS, WILLIAM KENTRIDGE, NEO RAUCH, RICHARD SERRA, KARA WALKER, AND ZHANG HUAN

Museum Also Receives 250 Works of Conceptual Art Assembled by Amsterdam's Art & Project Gallery

New York, October 18, 2007—The Museum of Modern Art has acquired significant works in a variety of mediums by such artists as Francis Alÿs, Louise Bourgeois, Andreas Gursky, Jasper Johns, William Kentridge, Neo Rauch, Richard Serra, Kara Walker, and Zhang Huan, as well as a major collection of conceptual art from Amsterdam's Art & Project Gallery, Director Glenn D. Lowry announced today. Within this group of acquisitions are new works by Johns and Rauch, a key early sculpture by Serra, a seminal installation by Walker, and contemporary prints from China.

Kara Walker's *Gone, An Historical Romance of a Civil War as It Occurred Between the Dusky Thighs of One Young Negress and her Heart* (1994), an important work of 21 cut paper silhouettes, and her first narrative wall installation, depicts a cast of characters involved in highly charged encounters. Walker (American, b. 1969) is among the most innovative artists to have emerged in the 1990s and is currently the subject of a mid-career retrospective at the Whitney Museum, which opens with this work. *Gone* has been donated to the Museum by The Speyer Family Foundation in honor of Museum President Marie-Josée Kravis.

The Museum adds to its holdings of works by Jasper Johns (American, b. 1930) with two paintings: *Beckett* (2005), a large-scale diptych painted in encaustic and oil that reintroduces Johns' flagstone motif, a promised gift of Museum trustee Kathy Fuld and her husband Richard; and *Untitled* (2006), a work of encaustic and collage whose luscious surface echoes the encaustic-and-newspaper collage technique of the artist's earliest paintings, a gift of Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis in honor of David Rockefeller.

Richard Serra (American, b. 1939), whose career was the subject of the landmark retrospective *Richard Serra Sculpture: Forty Years* at MoMA this year, has made a gift to the Museum of *To Lift* (1967), a key, early sculpture featured in the exhibition and a central work from the period when Serra was defining the aesthetic of process over product.

Neo Rauch's diptych painting *New Roles (Neue Rollen)* (2005) is a surreal suburban interior in which Rauch (German, b. 1960) has staged various scenes from a variety of historical eras. It is a promised gift of Museum trustee David Teiger.

A recent color photograph by Andreas Gursky (German, b. 1955), *Bahrain I* (2005) has been acquired through the generosity of MoMA trustees Agnes Gund, Henry and Marie-

Josée Kravis, Ronald S. and Jo Carole Lauder, and the Speyer Family Foundation, in honor of Robert B. Menschel. This plunging aerial perspective of a Formula One circuit in the desert of Bahrain is a commanding example of Gursky's inventive aesthetic. Flagrant fiction and riveting fact are melded together on a grand scale to yield an indelible image of contemporary global culture.

An important group of works by Francis Alÿs (Belgian, b. 1959) comprises three video works—*Re-enactments* (2001), *When Faith Moves Mountains* (2002), and *Ensayo I [The Rehearsal]* (1999-2004)—and related moving image studies, three paintings, and supporting materials such as drawings, collages, text, and newspaper clippings.

The Museum has also acquired William Kentridge's *Preparing the Flute* (2005), a working model made in preparation for his interpretation of Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, which premiered in Brussels in 2005 and was performed earlier this year at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In this work, Kentridge (South African, b. 1955) recreated the Brussels theater in miniature, including projected animated sequences used in the full-scale production. It is a gift of Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis in honor of Alanna Heiss, Director of P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center.

New works on paper by Lin TianMiao (Chinese, b. 1961) and Zhang Huan (Chinese, b. 1965) have also joined the collection. Ranking among China's most important contemporary artists, Lin TianMiao is one of only a handful of women there to achieve international recognition. Her work in installation, photography, video, and now printmaking deals with a broad range of issues. Three prints from her ongoing series *Focus* (2007) portray portraits of friends, family members, and the artist herself, yet each face is made anonymous through its close-up view and blurred focus, calling into question issues of identity, age, and gender. Zhang Huan is one of China's foremost artists and enters MoMA's collection with two monumental, untitled woodcuts from 2007. Based in Shanghai, he addresses traditional practices like *feng shui*, martial arts, and the investigation of karma and past and future lives in his immense woodcuts, made from blocks constructed of floorboards found in traditional homes slated for demolition.

Highlights of other recent acquisitions include drawings by Robert Ryman, Louise Bourgeois, and Mark Bradford. *Classico V* (1968), by Ryman (American, b. 1930), is from a seminal series of paintings executed on Classico paper and comprises one of the artist's first major bodies of work in the medium. It is a gift of the Committee on Drawings. *Femme Maison* (1947) is a poignant and powerful example from Bourgeois's (American, b. 1911) series of the same name, in which the artist combined imagery of the body and the home. It is a promised gift of Kathy and Richard S. Fuld Jr. A 22-foot-long mixed media collage by Mark Bradford (American, b. 1961), *James Brown is Dead* (2007) refers to the death of the iconic African-American musician, and is also a gift of the Fulds.

A gift of some 250 works—ephemera, prints, books, posters, drawings, photographs, films, wall paintings, a slide show, an installation, and a sound piece—by a broad range of

conceptual artists has been made to the Museum by Adriaan van Ravesteijn, who with Geert van Beijeren founded The Art & Project Gallery in Amsterdam in 1968. One of the leading galleries presenting conceptual art in Europe for more than 20 years, its collection spans the late 1960s to 1996 and includes such artists as Carl Andre, John Baldessari, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Alighiero e Boetti, Marcel Broodthaers, Stanley Brouwn, Daniel Buren, Hanne Darboven, Gilbert and George, On Kawara, Sol LeWitt, Robert Ryman, and Lawrence Weiner.

The Museum has also acquired drawings and DVDs of Diller + Scofidio's (American, established 1979) *Blur Building, Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland, 1998-2003*, which was built for the Swiss Expo 2002 on Lake Neuchâtel. It is a gift of Elise Jaffe and Jeffrey Brown.

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