

Meret Oppenheim earned her place in the history of modern art in Paris in 1936, when she decided to cover a teacup, saucer, and spoon with fur. This whimsical act produced the unforgettable *Object*, which swiftly gained the twenty-two-year-old artist the admiration of Surrealist painters, poets, and sculptors. Later that year, her furry tea set traveled to the United States for inclusion in The Museum of Modern Art's landmark exhibition *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism*, where it caused a sensation.

Oppenheim didn't stop with *Object*. Over the next five decades, she produced an exuberantly varied and fiercely original body of work that is largely unknown outside her native Switzerland. This retrospective, organized chronologically, surveys her remarkably open concept of art across nearly two hundred paintings, sculptures, assemblages, reliefs, jewelry designs, works on paper, and collages.

At the heart of the installation is *M.O.: My Exhibition*, a series of twelve drawings Oppenheim began in 1983 that feature meticulous renderings of her creations. Intended as an open-ended instruction manual for a major 1984 retrospective of her work, these idiosyncratic drawings—part self-portrait, part art historical record—demonstrate Oppenheim's determination to shape her own legacy. Our presentation celebrates the artist's commitment to self-representation, as well as her humor, originality, and persistent questioning—of the nature of dreams, of gender binaries and stereotypes, and of the distinction between ordinary objects and works of art.

Meret Oppenheim: My Exhibition is organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Kunstmuseum Bern; and the Menil Collection, Houston.

Organized by Anne Umland, The Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art; Nina Zimmer, Director, Kunstmuseum Bern; and Natalie Dupêcher, Associate Curator of Modern Art, the Menil Collection; with Lee Colón, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

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We invite you to explore the accompanying publication, *Meret Oppenheim: My Exhibition*, which is available in the Museum Store.

For related content, programs, and audio, visit moma.org/oppenheim.

#MOMyExhibition

#MeretOppenheim