

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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BARNETT NEWMAN by Thomas B. Hess. 160 pages; 175 illustrations (12 in color); clothbound edition \$15.00; paperbound edition \$7.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound edition distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd. in the United States and Canada; Transatlantic Book Service Ltd. in the United Kingdom; and Feffer and Simons internationally.

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BARNETT NEWMAN by Thomas B. Hess, the first book to examine the entire work of one of the most important and influential members of the New York School to emerge in the decade after World War II, will be published by The Museum of Modern Art on January 7, 1972.

Published in conjunction with the major retrospective of Newman's work guest-directed by Mr. Hess and on view at the Museum from October 21 through January 10, this book opens with a summary of Newman's early years and writings. The author then traces the artist's radical style of the 1940's back to earlier, semi-Surrealist drawings that demonstrate his interest in the themes of creation, procreation and the renewal of life. Mr. Hess explores the inner structure of the daring series of works that followed Newman's breakthrough in 1948, and he relates the works of this period to the revolutionary pictorial concerns they express and to their covert spiritual content, in which the themes of creation and creativity are embodied in a symmetrical, abstract image. Mr. Hess also examines the poetry of Jewish mysticism and the tradition of Kabbalist visionary speculation as an inspirational force in Newman's work. Also described is the moment of crisis in Newman's art in the late 1950s and the artist's emergence from those dark years beginning with the extraordinary "Stations of the Cross" and continuing to his mural-size works painted prior to his untimely death on July 4, 1970.

In addition to previously unknown series of etchings and drawings and all of his sculptures, this book also presents crucial passages from the artist's own writings.

Thomas B. Hess is editor of Art News magazine and the author of Abstract Painting: Background and American Phase (1951); the first book on Willem de Kooning (1959); and the first monograph on Barnett Newman (1969).

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Additional information and review copies available from Diana Goldin, Coordinator Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7297, -7501

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