

The Museum of Modern Art

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"Projects: William T. Wiley," an installation work by the West Coast artist, will be on view on the first floor of The Museum of Modern Art from April 9 through May 16. While appreciating the need for restrictions, Wiley says he has always understood the urge to touch in museums, and his current installation encourages viewer participation. In the first room, in addition to creating a large drawing on canvas, Wiley has set up "Camp Doubt in the Woulds," where Museum visitors are invited to play a guitar, throw the I-Ching, and look through the notebook Wiley kept while creating the piece. As Wiley says in his instructions, "Go right ahead that's what they are here for."

In the second gallery Wiley has drawn directly on the wall, set up a large plywood heart with the legend "Draw Your Heart Out" (pens are provided), and supplied copies of the Samurai creed. On two of the walls he has painted large black rectangles; on the smaller Wiley has made his own drawing; the larger has been left black. At a later date pastels will be available to the public for drawing on this wall as well.

Throughout the galleries Wiley has taped postcards which can be read, and drawn the hieroglyphics of the Hobo language, which are explained in an accompanying key.

Bernice Rose, Curator of Drawings and director of the exhibition, writes of Wiley's work, "His is a scenario of heroic myth which, although specific to the West, is familiar to all of us through the movies--the myth of the loner--the outsider. Perfectly aware of the strategies of contemporary art, Wiley engages in a kind of deliberate mocking of the intellectual pieties of 'serious' art, especially as practiced on the East Coast."

The exhibition is the thirty-eighth in the Projects series, begun in May 1971 and designed to inform the public of recent developments in contemporary art.

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