

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## EXHIBITION OF WOVEN WALL HANGINGS AT MUSEUM

WALL HANGINGS: THE NEW CLASSICISM, an exhibition of 15 weavings, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art in the second-floor Philip L. Goodwin Galleries from April 8 through June 7.

During the last decade one of the most striking developments in weaving has been the movement toward small-scale patterns and a refinement in scale and materials, in contrast to the exuberance and the reliance on coarse fibers that characterized so many of the weavings in the Museum's 1969 "Wall Hangings" show. This new aesthetic is illustrated by the work of five artists -- Madeleine Bosscher, Kris Dey, Nancy Guay, Richard Landis, and Ed Rossbach -- in WALL HANGINGS: THE NEW CLASSICISM.

Madeleine Bosscher has woven rows of round and square scraps of cloth of equal size into the surface threads of her wall hangings creating tapestries in relief with strong surface undulations. Neutral colors ensure that attention is not distracted from the structure of the weaving.

Kris Dey spirally wraps strips of cotton airbrushed in brilliant colors around dowels rather than relying on traditional weaving. Her hangings are very large, and her bold colors form vertical patterns, creating through repetition vibrant, optical effects across the surface of the work.

Nancy Guay's fascinating and unusual wall hangings are woven of such materials as saran, mylar, gold thread, and copper wire. The effects of light on the surfaces of her textiles create subtle, changing, luminous patterns.

Richard Landis concentrates on color -- the gradation of colors and color values. He works with very fine cotton thread and weaves small, refined, luminous textiles. He explains: "Rectangles are the basis of my designs.

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The structure or pattern of the design is achieved by the relative positions of the tones and/or the hues."

Ed Rossbach weaves natural fibers of neutral colors into positive-negative patterns. He has said of his work: "Mostly I am intrigued by the absolute purity of the damask structure for creating imagery--with a balance of identical warp and weft, nothing concealed--everything structural, and all the energy of the warps and wefts expressed as they appear as required on the surface."

Directed by J. Stewart Johnson, Curator of Design in the Department of Architecture and Design, WALL HANGINGS: THE NEW CLASSICISM has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Jack Lenor Larsen has assisted as Consultant to the Department for textiles.

The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition program is made possible in part with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency whose funds are recommended by the Governor and appropriated by the State Legislature.

Madeleine Bosscher — Dutch, born 1942

Kris Dey — American, born 1949

Nancy Guay — American, born 1945

Richard Landis — American, born 1931

Ed Rossbach — American, born 1914

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Photographs and additional information available from Linda Gordon, Associate Director, or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel. 956-2648; 7501.

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