

The Museum of Modern Art

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MUSEUM EXHIBITS "THE DONKEY AND THE DARLING" A FIRST EDITION BY TERRY SOUTHERN AND LARRY RIVERS

An exhibition of 53 color lithographs, the result of a nine-year (1968-77) collaborative project between artist Larry Rivers and writer Terry Southern will be on view in the third-floor Sachs Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art, April 10 through July 3. LARRY RIVERS/TERRY SOUTHERN: THE DONKEY AND THE DARLING is being directed by Alexandra Schwartz, Assistant Curator in the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books.

"Terry Southern and Larry Rivers were longtime friends and admirers of each other's work when Tatyana Grosman, founder and director of Universal Limited Art Editions, suggested that they collaborate on a project," notes Ms. Schwartz. "After Mrs. Grosman selected the fairy tale from among Southern's unpublished manuscripts, Rivers's long involvement with the book began. Although Rivers was essentially responsible for all the visual components, including the clever layout of the text, Southern did become involved aesthetically in the collaboration. In addition to choosing the 'fake arabic' typeface and the 'forest green' color of the elaborately crafted lacquered box, Southern enthusiastically offered suggestions to Rivers as to what elements might be added to enliven his prose. Likewise, Rivers asked a lot of questions of Southern about the meaning of the text."

"The humorous fantasy characters such as Pigman, Bad Baker, and Feisty Thrills are imaginatively illuminated in Rivers's figurative mode, enhanced by his characteristic smudges and stray markings. Even the most subtle

nuances of his drawing style are perceivable in these prints, an advantage of fine lithography."

The exhibition of the complete illustrated book will be richly augmented with lithographic proofs and preliminary drawings for many of the images as well as a model for the box. The lengthiest project yet undertaken by U.L.A.E., the publication of The Donkey and the Darling in 1977 marked Larry Rivers's 20th year of association with this notable publisher.

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