

The Museum of Modern Art

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SECOND IN DRAWINGS SERIES TO FEATURE WORKS BY FIVE ARTISTS

NEW WORK ON PAPER 2: BOROFKY, CLEMENTE, MERZ, PENCK, PENONE, the second in a series of planned exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art intended to explore the variety and vitality of recent work in drawing, will present a selection of fresh, contemporary drawings and related works by five artists beginning July 29. Directed by Bernice Rose, Curator, Department of Drawings, the exhibition will probe the manner in which each of these artists--Jonathan Borofsky, Francesco Clemente, Mario Merz, A.R. Penck and Giuseppe Penone--extends the traditional limits of drawing from the small sheet of paper into series, onto large sheets of paper, onto canvas, into environmental scale and into three dimensions. Borofsky, Merz and Penone will create their works for the exhibition specifically in the Museum's galleries. The exhibition, which follows the critically acclaimed NEW WORK ON PAPER 1, will remain on view through September 21.

Each artist represented in the exhibition was chosen for his difference from the others, states Ms. Rose, yet there is a common element in each man's work. "For each," she explains, "drawing forms an important part of his practice, either as an independent means of expression or as the indispensable structural center of an eclectic mix of elements." Within the modern tradition, Rose continues, it is

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possible to distinguish two tendencies. "One follows the formalist approach of the manipulation of the structure--the linear armature and planar field--of modern art itself, while the other manipulates a variety of elements, especially figures, within that structure...Just at the moment the latter tendency is in the ascendant, overcoming national and generational differences." At the same time, there is an increasing interest in drawing as "process...the process that seemingly precedes structure and is its primordial root." The subjective and the expressive are the immediate concern of this kind of drawing.

Three of the artists are working on-site, creating works especially for the exhibition. They include Jonathan Borofsky, the only American artist in NEW WORK ON PAPER 2, who is planning a new environmental piece, including drawings for video. For Borofsky, comments Rose, "drawing is the initial impulse that releases all of his work." Mario Merz, best-known for his three-dimensional environmental structures juxtaposing natural and artificial, found and specially-created, in a variety of materials including neon lights, will create an on-site structure with drawings. Giuseppe Penone is creating a new work specifically for the exhibition, a charcoal drawing to be executed on paper mounted on the four walls of a room, the structure of which, according to Rose, is a "variant of the texture of the bronze cast sculpture that is a central part of the work." Francesco Clemente's 65 foot drawing titled the loneliness of the frog, or bruno taut in istanbul, 1937, laughing will be installed on one entire wall of the exhibition space. A.R. Penck

will be represented by three series of drawings, including a set of 25 (TE1, 1980) and a set of 14 (K for Karen, 1979).

NEW WORK ON PAPER 2: BOROFKY, CLEMENTE, MERZ, PENCK, PENONE, which is organized with the aid of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, will be accompanied by a catalog in the form of a small portfolio containing reproductions of drawings by each of the five artists as well as biographical information. Borofsky, Clemente, Merz and Penone have all created drawings especially for the publication; Penck will be represented by previously executed work. The publication, which will include statements or poems by the first four artists as well as an introduction by Ms. Rose, is made possible by a generous grant from Pinewood Foundation, and will be distributed by The Museum of Modern Art.