

WORK BY JIM DINE COMMEMORATING
THE CENTENNIAL OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
WILL GO ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ON AUGUST 25

The evolution of A Heart at the Opera, the commemorative print created by artist Jim Dine in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Opera, will be presented in an exhibition entitled JIM DINE: A HEART AT THE OPERA that will open at The Museum of Modern Art on August 25, 1983. Organized by Riva Castleman, Director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, the exhibition will feature nine artist's trial proofs and a finished color lithograph that will together trace the artist's energetic experimentation with color and line to create a composition suitable for the Opera's centennial poster. The exhibition will remain on view in the Museum's ground-floor lobby through October 11, 1983.

The Metropolitan Opera Association began taking steps nearly two years ago to commission a lithograph by a major American artist to commemorate its 100th Anniversary. After considering several artists, the Association offered the commission to Jim Dine, a versatile artist known for his work in printmaking as well as in painting.

A Heart at the Opera features a number of symbols drawn from Dine's artistic repertoire that relate both to the world of the artist and to the traditions of the Opera. Foremost in the composition is a large heart, a well-known image in Dine's work and one that suggests one of the great operatic themes, love in its many forms. "The tools in the print are Dine's

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familiar and very autobiographical objects," notes Miss Castleman, "yet at the same time they evoke the artistry of the Opera's splendid stagecraft. The leaves represent the garden outside the Universal Limited Art Editions print studio in which the poster was made." The result, according to Miss Castleman, is a powerful image, "reflecting an inspired collaboration between art and music."

The lithograph, without the lettering that was added to a slightly reduced version for use as a poster, was printed on paper made by hand by the papermaker Dieu Donne of New York City. This paper has two watermarks: one in the center with the Opera's centennial logo, designed by Malcolm Greer of the Rhode Island School of Design, and the other bearing Jim Dine's signature.

The A Heart at the Opera poster will be available for purchase at the Metropolitan Opera Gift Shop at the Opera House, through Met By Mail, and at The Museum Store of The Museum of Modern Art, 37 West 53 Street, New York.

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For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, or Tamara Real, Assistant Editor, the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 (212) 708-9750
