

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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PROJECTS: WIN KNOWLTON

March 13 - April 22, 1986

This spring The Museum of Modern Art is reviving its PROJECTS series of small, frequently changing exhibitions devoted to contemporary art. Directed by Linda Shearer, curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, the program will enable the Museum to present new work, mostly by younger or less established artists in individual and group shows, with a flexibility and timeliness that is not possible with larger exhibitions.

The inaugural exhibition, on view in the Museum's Garden Hall Gallery from March 13 to April 22, 1986, features sculpture and drawing by New York-based artist Win Knowlton. This exhibition has been organized by Robert McDaniel, curatorial assistant in the Department of Drawings, who has written the essay for the brochure accompanying the presentation.

PROJECTS: WIN KNOWLTON includes approximately twelve of the artist's most recent works of sculpture in cast metals, concrete, and hydrocal, and six related drawings. Knowlton, who emerged as an artist during the height of a return to expressionism, turned his attention to the medium, focusing on the manipulation of material to achieve an expressive image.

The biomorphism of several of Knowlton's forms, as in Bird and Man (1985), is reminiscent of "alien landscape elements from overwrought science-fiction films of the fifties." There are also comic references apparent in the artist's "sources" in American low-culture imagery. The objects in the shoe series (1984), for example, resemble animated cartoon figures from the thirties and forties. In one of these works, entitled Iron Boots (1984),

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a pair of found objects appear as familiar as discarded machine parts. Their odd bird-head shape, however, defies the technological interpretation and returns the focus to an appreciation of the work's formal beauty. McDaniel writes, "In these works we are given forms that we recognize as shapes of 'something,' objects with whose phylum or class we may have had some experience in the past....The suspension of the intellect that these mysterious objects produce provides the situation necessary for their success. That success is an aesthetic one, involving epiphanal moments of recognition."

Win Knowlton was born in Boston in 1953 and received his BFA degree from Parson's School of Design in 1978. He has exhibited individual pieces over the past six years in group exhibitions in New York, most recently at the Drawing Center (1985) and Manhattan Art (1985). This is his first solo exhibition.

The new PROJECTS series is based on the previous one which ran from 1971 to 1982 and featured the work of such artists as Chuck Close, Raphael Ferrer, Barry Flanagan, Nancy Graves, and Mary Miss relatively early in their careers. The new series is an important part of the Museum's contemporary exhibitions program, intending to present the public with a broad view of current explorations and new directions in the visual arts. Linda Shearer states, "PROJECTS has a uniqueness and openness to it that can provide extraordinary opportunities for artists that might not be possible elsewhere."

Curatorial staff from all Museum departments are participating in the selection and organization of shows, making possible the presentation of a wide range of new work. Each exhibition will be nearly six weeks in duration, totalling approximately seven shows a year, and will be accompanied by a brochure.

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Future exhibitions include PROJECTS: JUDITH BARRY, a mixed-media installation, entitled Echo, of Super-8 film and slide projections that has never been shown before. Organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film, the installation will be on view from May 2 to June 3, 1986. This will be followed next fall by PROJECTS: JUSTEN LADDA, an installation organized by Wendy Weitman, assistant curator, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Jeanne Collins or Jessica Schwartz, Department of Public Information 212/708-9750.