

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

TITLE BERLINART 1961-1987

DATES June 4 - September 8, 1987

ORGANIZATION Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

SPONSORSHIP The exhibition has been sponsored in part by grants from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany; The Senator for Cultural Affairs, Berlin; and the National Endowment for the Art, Washington, D.C. Deutsche Bank, Philip Morris Companies Inc., and The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art have also provided generous support. Additional assistance for transportation has been received from Lufthansa German Airlines. The publication accompanying the exhibition has been made possible by The Bohen Foundation.

FOCUS Over the past quarter century Berlin has emerged as a major center of contemporary artistic activity. This is the first museum exhibition in the United States to present and assess its contribution to recent art history. Berlin's international presence was felt as German artists began to receive exposure abroad in the 1970s. At the same time a group of American and European artists gravitated to Berlin. Fifty-five artists from ten countries are represented in the exhibition. Featuring diverse mediums, the exhibition includes over 150 works, most of them unfamiliar to the American public.

CONTENT BERLINART begins with expressionistic work of the sixties, focusing on the paintings of Georg Baselitz and Eugen Schönebeck, along with those of Karl Horst Hödicke, Bernd Koberling, and Markus Lüpertz, all of which have become a major force in contemporary German art. The city is the subject of some of the most poignant and eloquent images in recent art, as portrayed by such artists as Rainer Fetting, Dieter Hacker, Helmut Middendorf, and Bernd Zimmer.

Artists from other countries, by living and working in Berlin, have developed personal responses to this unique city. Among those featured here--many of them sponsored by the DAAD program (German Academic Exchange Service)--are Armando (the Netherlands); Terry Fox, Edward Kienholz, and Malcolm Morley (United States); David Hockney and Bruce McLean (Great Britain); Luciano Castelli and Markus Raetz (Switzerland); and Emilio Vedova (Italy).

During the seventies artists in Berlin engaged in an enormous amount of drawing and publishing activity, which is represented in the exhibition by such members of the Fluxus group as Robert Filliou, Ludwig Gosewitz, Arthur Koepcke, Tomas Schmit, Ben Vautier, Wolf Vostell, and Emmett Williams. The importance of performance at that time is represented by such artists as Joseph Beuys and Allan Kaprow.

Many of the younger artists seem to reflect more international concerns, such as the plight of the artist in a big city. Responding to the popular culture of their time, they work within an alternative scene relating to similar activity in Paris, London, New York, and other major metropolitan centers. Among these artists are many of the former students of Baselitz, Hödicke, Koberling, and Lüpertz. Also presented are works by a number of emerging artists, most of whom have never shown in the United States, including Peter Chevalier, ter Hell, Olaf Metzel, Hermann Pitz, and Eva-Maria Schön.

FILMS AND
LECTURES

Film has played an important role in the cultural life of Berlin. A program of films made in Berlin is a major component of the exhibition. A special lecture series focuses on issues of art in Berlin. (Details to be announced.)

PUBLICATION

BERLINART 1961-1987 documents the exhibition and the period. Introduction by Kynaston McShine. Essays by John Willett, Wieland Schmied, Karl Ruhrberg, Michael Schwarz, René Block, and Laurence Kardish. Chronology, biographies of the artists, and bibliography. Approximately 80 color and 240 black-and-white illustrations; 268 pages. Published by The Museum of Modern Art and Prestel-Verlag.

TRAVEL

After its New York showing, the exhibition travels to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (October 22, 1987 - January 3, 1988).

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