

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1988

DONALD SULTAN'S BLACK LEMONS

February 4 - May 3, 1988

An exhibition of monumental prints by American artist Donald Sultan opens at The Museum of Modern Art on February 4, 1988. Organized by Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, DONALD SULTAN'S BLACK LEMONS includes several groups of black-and-white aquatints executed between 1984 and 1987, as well as a lead sculpture and a folding screen with printed panels. On view through May 3, the exhibition is supported by the Associates of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books.

Taking the distinctive form of the lemon--the subject of many of his somber tar-on-tile paintings--Sultan has used a unique procedure to create these large prints. Beginning with a copperplate evenly covered with resin particles, the artist has blown through a glass pipe to draw the images with his own breath. With this technique he has achieved the blurred effect of heavily applied charcoal.

In an article written at the time of a 1986 exhibition in Paris, Sultan's prints were described by Brigitte Baer: "Here they are, huge, covering the wall from the ceiling to the floor: gorgeous, fat, velvet black, with those hazy outlines, as powdery as if they had been covered with some mysterious kind of black icing sugar. The room is swarming with black lemons."

Three of the black lemon prints have been mounted in the traditional oriental manner as a six-fold screen, which is shown for the first time in this exhibition. Sultan has covered the back of the panels with brightly colored

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potato prints on ordinary wrapping paper. Along with most of the aquatints, the small edition of screens was published by Parisol Press, New York.

Donald Sultan was born in 1951 in Asheville, North Carolina. He received his B.F.A. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1973), and his M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1975). Since the early seventies, his work has been included in numerous individual and group exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, and Europe. A retrospective, DONALD SULTAN, which opened in 1987 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, traveled to the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and is currently on view at the Fort Worth Art Museum through March 20. It concludes its tour at the Brooklyn Museum from April 8 to June 3, 1988. Sultan has received the Creative Artists Public Service Grant, New York (1978-79), and a National Endowment for the Arts grant (1980-81). He lives and works in New York.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.