

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION CHRISTOPHER WILMARTH

DATES May 25 - August 22, 1989

ORGANIZATION Organized by Laura Rosenstock, Assistant Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

SUPPORT The exhibition and its accompanying publication are made possible by a generous grant from Edward R. Broida.

ARTIST California-born Christopher Wilmarth (1943-87) came to New York at the age of seventeen, where he sought to evoke in his sculpture the character of light and shadow integral to the city's water and sky. Employing glass in combination with other materials, he created works remarkable in their ability to suggest poetic, humanistic content through an austere, constructivist, geometric idiom.

CONTENT This first in-depth presentation in a major museum of work by Wilmarth includes twenty-five sculptures drawn from various collections including the artist's estate. The exhibition also includes fifteen drawings from the estate, many of which have never before been exhibited.

FOCUS The exhibition centers primarily on Wilmarth's glass and steel constructions of the seventies, notable for their fusion of fragility and strength. The artist combined translucent planes of etched glass, which admit and diffuse a luminous greenish light, with cut and bent plates of dark, shadowy steel, investing his sculptures with a haunting, lyrical presence. A selection of later pieces, which merge figurative ovoids with abstract forms, is included. Created shortly before the artist's death, a series of powerful and moving drawings also contain allusions to the human presence.

PUBLICATION Christopher Wilmarth. Preface by Kirk Varnedoe. Essay by Laura Rosenstock. 48 pages. 30 color and 15 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Paperbound, \$9.95; available in the Museum Store.

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