

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES ART OF THE FORTIES EXHIBITION

A major catalogue exploring the extraordinary richness and range of creative output during the turbulent decade of the forties accompanies the exhibition **ART OF THE FORTIES**, on view at The Museum of Modern Art through April 30, 1991. The fully illustrated publication contains an essay by the distinguished writer Guy Davenport, with an introduction by Riva Castleman, the Museum's deputy director for curatorial affairs and organizer of the exhibition.

In the introduction to *Art of the Forties*, Ms. Castleman discusses the situation of the arts during the decade, the Museum's role in the development of American art, and its programs related to the war effort. Mr. Davenport's essay, "Civilization and Its Opposite in the Nineteen-Forties," examines the cultural and political climate, concentrating on the major literary figures of the period. Author of several books of essays, criticism, and fiction and the recent recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, Mr. Davenport is Alumni Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

The 160-page catalogue includes more than 170 illustrations, forty-eight of which are in color, chosen from the holdings of the Museum's six curatorial departments. Among the works represented are paintings and sculpture by Cornell, Giacometti, de Kooning, Orozco, Picasso, Pollock, Rothko, and Shahn; prints and drawings by Chagall, Klee, and Miró; photographs by Brandt, Callahan, Lange, Strand, Weegee, and Weston; films by Eisenstein, Hitchcock,

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Minnelli, and Welles; and architecture and design objects by Eames, Fuller, Mies van der Rohe, Noguchi, and Saarinen. An annotated list of plates includes background information or commentary drawn from the Museum's archives and other published sources of the time. An illustrated chronology of important cultural, political, social, and scientific events of the decade concludes the volume.

Published by The Museum of Modern Art, *Art of the Forties* is available in The MoMA Book Store. The clothbound edition, distributed by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., is \$39.95; the paperbound edition is \$19.95.

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