

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1994

FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION** **CY TWOMBLY: A RETROSPECTIVE**
- DATES** September 25, 1994 - January 10, 1995
- ORGANIZATION** Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art
- SPONSORSHIP** This exhibition is generously supported by Lily Auchincloss. The accompanying publication is made possible by a generous gift from Emily Fisher Landau.
- CONTENT** This exhibition is a survey of the complete range of the work of American artist Cy Twombly (b. 1929). It includes little-known early works from the 1950s as well as key pieces, some from European private collections, previously seen only in Europe. Some forty-five paintings and the same number of works on paper, ranging from small, intimate works to monumental pieces, are displayed. A representative range of Twombly's sculpture provides a long-awaited opportunity to study his work in this medium.
- Unlike his contemporaries and friends Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, who were precursors of Pop, Twombly chose to cultivate the legacy of abstraction offered by the Abstract Expressionists. He has pursued a form of painting that represents a personal combination of elements of gestural abstraction, drawing, and writing. Suffused with references to poetry and to the Mediterranean heritage that has surrounded him since his move to Italy in 1957, Twombly's art bridges literary and painterly sensibilities as well as contemporary art and the rich cultural past of antiquity and Romanticism.
- PUBLICATION** *Cy Twombly*, by Kirk Varnedoe. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Hardbound, distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and paperbound; both available in The MoMA Book Store.
- TRAVEL** After its New York showing, the exhibition travels to the Menil Collection, Houston (February 7 - March 19, 1995); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (April 9 - June 25, 1995); and the National Gallery, Berlin (September 1 - November 19, 1995).

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