

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1995

FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION** **ANNETTE MESSEGER**
- DATES** October 12, 1995 - January 16, 1996
- ORGANIZATION** Jointly organized by Sheryl Conkelton, Associate Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, and Carol S. Eliel, Associate Curator, Twentieth-Century Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- SPONSORSHIP** This exhibition and its accompanying publication is supported in part by generous grants from the AFAA (Association Française d'Action Artistique-Ministère des Affaires Etrangères) and the National Endowment for the Arts. Transportation assistance was provided in part by Air France.
- CONTENT** This exhibition is the first museum retrospective in the United States devoted to the work of French artist Annette Messager (b. 1943), one of the most important contemporary artists working in Europe today. Messager uses the fragmentation of images and language to explore issues of identity, both collective and individual. Her work incorporates a Surrealist aesthetic while also dealing with social issues of normalcy, morality, and the role of women.
- Comprising approximately thirty works from the early 1970s through the mid-1990s, **ANNETTE MESSEGER** includes artist's books, photographs, and complex installations that juxtapose unlikely found and constructed objects, images, and fragments of text. In her work, she forcefully illustrates the idea that all things -- a toy, a piece of embroidery, a word -- can be transformed into objects of potent expression.
- PUBLICATION** **Annette Messager**, with essays by Sheryl Conkelton and Carol S. Eliel. 96 pages. 65 illustrations; 34 in color. Published jointly by The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Paperbound; \$24.95, distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams. Inc., New York; available in The MoMA Book Store.
- TRAVEL** The exhibition opens at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (June 15 - September 3, 1995) and after its New York showing, travels to the Art Institute of Chicago (February 17 - May 5, 1996).

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Mary-Anne Smith, the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9750.