

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MARGIT ROWELL

Margit Rowell assumed the position of Chief Curator of the Department of Drawings at The Museum of Modern Art in August 1994. *Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life* is the third major exhibition she has organized at MoMA. In the past year she organized *Antonin Artaud: Works on Paper* (October 3, 1996–January 7, 1997), the first American exhibition of the drawings of Artaud, and coorganized *Brancusi: Selected Masterworks from the Musée National d'Art Moderne and The Museum of Modern Art, New York* (January 18–April 23, 1996), with Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art. This special showing was drawn from the landmark retrospective *Constantin Brancusi*, which she coorganized in her former position as Curator of Sculpture, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, with Ann Temkin, The Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of Twentieth-Century Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Prior to joining MoMA, Ms. Rowell was Curator of Sculpture, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1991–94); Curator in Charge of Programming, Centro de arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (1990–91); Director of Exhibitions, Fundacio Joan Miró, Barcelona (1987–89); Curator, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1983–87); and Curator of Special Exhibitions, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1969–83).

Among the exhibitions Ms. Rowell has organized for other institutions are *Joan Miró: Campo Stella* (1993) and *Robert Therrien* (1991–92) for the Reina Sofia; a series of one-person exhibitions devoted to the work of contemporary artists, including Wolfgang Laib, Luciano

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Fabro, and Leandre Cristofol (1989–90), for the Miró Foundation; an exhibition of drawings by Joan Miró for the American Federation of the Arts, seen in Philadelphia, Fort Worth, and San Francisco; *Qu'est-ce que la Sculpture Moderne* (1986) for the Centre Pompidou; and *Torres-Garcia: Grid-Pattern-Sign* (1985) for the Hayward Gallery, London, which toured to Barcelona, Düsseldorf, and Miami. Exhibitions Ms. Rowell organized at the Guggenheim Museum include *Julio Gonzalez: A Retrospective* (1983), *The Avant-garde in Russia: The Costakis Collection* (1981), and *The Planar Dimension* (1979), as well as exhibitions devoted to the work of Ad Reinhardt, Jean Dubuffet, and Piet Mondrian, among others.

In addition to writing essays for the catalogues accompanying her exhibitions, Ms. Rowell has authored *Julio Gonzalez* (introduction to the catalogue raisonné, 1987); *Joan Miró: Writings and Interviews* (1986), *Joan Miró: Peinture = Poésie* (1976), *Joan Miró* (1971), *La Peinture, le geste, l'action* (1970, 1985), and *Handbook to the Collection, Guggenheim Museum* (1971), as well as numerous articles in international art journals.

Ms. Rowell earned an M.A. in art history from the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie, Paris (1966); and a Ph.D. from the Université de Paris-Nanterre (1968). Currently she serves on the Executive Board of ICOM/CIMAM (Comité International des Musées d'Art Moderne) and was its President from 1989 to 1992. She is also a member of AICA (Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art), and served as Vice President of its American section from 1978 to 1981.

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