

The Museum of Modern Art

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WALL DRAWING AND TWELVE LITHOGRAPHS BY JOHN WALKER AT MUSEUM

A wall drawing created especially for the exhibition and a series of twelve lithographs titled the Blackboard Series, both by the British artist John Walker, will be on view from December 19 through February 2 at The Museum of Modern Art as part of the "Projects" series of recent work by contemporary artists.

"Both the wall drawing and the Blackboard Series have grown out of the artist's use of the blackboard in his studio as a tool for working out problems of scale in his painting," notes Howardena Pindell, Assistant Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books and director of the exhibition. "The blackboard was expanded in the process, becoming the work itself."

The wall is first prepared for the drawing with a dark acrylic ground. Using a tool resembling a blackboard eraser, the artist dusts French chalk on the wall at the top of the painted rectangle. The chalk drifts downward, settling in varying densities on the wall. Marks are made in the surface by the artist's hand and by tape which is laid down before dusting and then removed. "The drawing is temporal, lasting only for the duration of the project or the life of the wall," says Ms. Pindell, adding that Walker has done other wall drawings in England (1972) and Germany (1973).

The lithographs were produced from a series of plates on which different abstract images were drawn. Each lithograph in the series results from the use of several plates, printed in a progression from dark to light grays. The end result is different gradations of gray and different combinations of images derived from a fixed set of visual elements

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