

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
July 1987

PROJECTS: TOM OTTERNESS

July 23 - October 13, 1987

The Museum of Modern Art's PROJECTS series moves outdoors this summer with an installation by American artist Tom Otterness in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden. Organized by Linda Shearer, curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture and director of the series, the exhibition consists of Otterness's large-scale bronze and Cor-Ten steel sculpture, The Tables.

Otterness's work first began to receive public recognition in the early eighties with his white plaster friezes depicting plump, comical "doughboys" that act out the sociopolitical turmoil of a fictional society. By 1985 he added toylke figures, both humanoid and animal, which continue to explore the artist's favorite themes of love and war, creation and destruction.

The Tables, begun in 1986, is his most ambitious undertaking to date. The work consists of three oversized, steel picnic tables, populated by more than 100 bronze objects ranging in height from three inches to three feet. Although unusually monumental--the entire sculpture is thirty-eight feet long--the familiar nature of the picnic table invites visitors to sit on a bench and enter the sculptural drama of Otterness's fantasy world. Ms. Shearer writes in the brochure accompanying the exhibition, "Like Swift and in similar symbolic language, Otterness gives us a fairy-tale model of a civilization in devolution."

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