

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PICTURING "GREATNESS"

January 14 - March 29, 1988

An exhibition of photographic portraits of famous artists, ranging in date from 1893 to 1964, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on January 14, 1988. Organized by artist and writer Barbara Kruger, PICTURING "GREATNESS" is part of Contemporary Art in Context, a week-long series of programs at the Museum beginning February 29. Kruger was invited by the Museum to select an exhibition from the collection and the result is a contemporary artist's realignment of historical work.

Ms. Kruger writes, "PICTURING 'GREATNESS' can be about what it means to look like an artist. It can be about eyes and mouths and finery and gesture and how we look from the waist up. It can be about how pose is ambushed by cliché and snapped into stereotype by the camera. It can be about how photography creates prominence, freezes moments and makes history."

The exhibition includes approximately forty black-and-white photographs by such photographers as Nickolas Muray (Claude Monet, 1926), Irving Penn (John Marin, 1947), May Ray (Pablo Picasso, n.d.), Alexander Rodchenko (self-portrait, 1935), Edward Steichen (Rodin and "The Thinker," 1902), Alfred Stieglitz (Georgia O'Keeffe, 1924), and Edward Weston (Diego Rivera, 1924). Other artists include Bill Brandt, Brassai (Gyula Halász), Irwin B. Klein, Arnold Newman, Rogi-André, and August Sander.

Born in 1945 in Newark, New Jersey, Barbara Kruger studied at Syracuse University, Parsons School of Design, and the School of Visual Arts, New York.

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