

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## KAJ FRANCK: DESIGNER

April 16 - October 12, 1992

The first retrospective in the United States of the work of Finnish glass and ceramic designer Kaj Franck (1911-1989) is on view at The Museum of Modern Art from April 16 through October 12, 1992. Organized by Christopher Mount, curatorial assistant, Department of Architecture and Design, **KAJ FRANCK: DESIGNER** consists of approximately 200 pieces of one-of-a-kind and mass-produced ceramic, glass, and plastic tableware designed between the late 1940s and 1980s.

The exhibition is made possible by grants from the Finnish Ministry of Education, Hackman Arabia Oy Ab, Hackman Iittala Oy Ab, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Dorrit Pacius, the Museum of Applied Arts, Helsinki; and The Helsinki University of Industrial Arts. Transportation assistance has been provided by Finnair.

Often called the "conscience of Finnish design," Franck sought to create what he called the "optimal object," one that reflected the ideal relationship between man and the mass-produced commodity. His products remain among the most successful in the history of modern design, because they synthesize both utility and aesthetics with the utmost refinement and continue to look as contemporary today as they did when first introduced.

Franck's postwar designs for such companies as Arabia, Iittala, and Nuutajärvi ranged from the highly functional to the purely decorative. His production pieces were some of the most popular and influential of the period:

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