

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION** **PIET MONDRIAN: 1872-1944**
- DATES** October 1, 1995 - January 23, 1996
- ORGANIZATION** This exhibition was organized jointly by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; and The Museum of Modern Art, New York. The international curatorial team led by Angelica Zander Rudenstine, Guest Curator, National Gallery of Art, includes Yve-Alain Bois, Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., Professor of Modern Art, Harvard University; Joop Joosten, author of the forthcoming *catalogue raisonné* of Mondrian's Cubist and Neo-Plastic work; Hans Janssen, Curator of the Modern Collection, Haags Gemeentemuseum; and John Elderfield, Chief Curator at Large, The Museum of Modern Art.
- SPONSORSHIP** The New York showing is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- CONTENT** Few artists occupy as crucial a place in the history of twentieth-century art as the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian (1872-1944). This landmark exhibition, which is the first comprehensive presentation of Mondrian's work in more than twenty years, differs from previous retrospectives by emphasizing Mondrian's identity as a modern, abstract artist. It traces the major steps in his artistic evolution and provides an unprecedented opportunity to reevaluate his legacy as a painter.
- The exhibition comprises some 160 paintings and drawings from museums and private collections in Europe, Japan, and North America. Opening with selected examples of Mondrian's early work, made in the Netherlands, the exhibition goes on to examine his exposure to French modernism -- which led to his first experiments with Cubism and pure abstraction during World War I -- and surveys the time the artist spent in Paris (1919-38), London (1938-40), and New York (1940-44). This exhibition thus focuses on the artist's achievement in abstraction, the steps leading to it, and the evolution of his abstract style (which he called "Neo-Plasticism") until the time of his death.

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