The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
December 1995

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION **ROY DeCARAVA: A RETROSPECTIVE**

DATES January 25 - May 7, 1996

ORGANIZATION Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art

SPONSORSHIP This exhibition and the accompanying publication are supported by a grant from Metropolitan Life Foundation. Additional funding has been provided by Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

CONTENT Roy DeCarava (b. 1919) is a leading figure in the lively history of American photography since World War II. Through some 200 black-and-white prints, this major retrospective surveys the artist's achievement, from gentle, intimate pictures of everyday life in Harlem to lyric experiments in poetic metaphor. DeCarava's portraits and jazz photographs -- of Billie Holiday, Milt Jackson, John Coltrane, and many others -- are among the best ever made. Also featured are the series on the moods of darkness and night, the streets and subways of the city, and the civil rights protests of the early 1960s.

A lifelong New Yorker, DeCarava in 1952 received the first Guggenheim Fellowship awarded to an African-American photographer. In 1955 his Harlem pictures were published in *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*, with text by Langston Hughes. Since 1975 he has taught photography at Hunter College, where he is Distinguished Professor of Art of the City University of New York.

JAZZ AT MoMA During the run of the exhibition, evenings of "Jazz at MoMA" will feature renowned musicians invited by Roy DeCarava and jazz bassist Ron Carter (Fridays, 5:30 - 7:45 p.m.). This series is supported by a generous grant from The Robert and Joyce Menschel Foundation.

PUBLICATION ***Roy DeCarava: A Retrospective,*** by Peter Galassi with an essay by Sherry Turner DeCarava. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Clothbound distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York.

TRAVEL **ROY DeCARAVA: A RETROSPECTIVE** will travel to The Art Institute of Chicago (June 8 - Sept. 15, 1996); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Nov. 14, 1996 - Jan. 26, 1997); the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA (Feb. 22 - May 4, 1997); The St. Louis Art Museum (June 15 - Aug. 9, 1997); The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Sept. 7 - Nov. 16, 1997); the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (Jan. 22 - April 5, 1998); the High Museum of Art, Atlanta (June 27 - Sept. 19, 1998); and The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (Oct. 17, 1998 - Jan. 4, 1999).

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