

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1990

GUNTA STOLZL AND ANNI ALBERS

Through July 8, 1990

The distinctive fabric designs of Anni Albers (b. 1899) and Gunta Stölzl (1897-1983) are the subject of an exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art through July 8, 1990. Organized by Matilda McQuaid, curatorial assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design, GUNTA STOLZL AND ANNI ALBERS presents over 100 works, including gouaches and fabric samples, by two of the most influential textile designers of this century.

Rejecting a nineteenth-century tradition of clothmaking, Albers and Stölzl influenced the course of fabric making by introducing new fibers and finishes and deriving patterns from the structure of the cloth. As Albers's teacher at the Bauhaus, Stölzl encouraged her to use new materials and to explore their utilitarian and aesthetic values. Synthetics such as rayon, cellophane, and metallic thread were combined with traditional natural fibers like jute and linen to reveal the essential and contrasting characteristics of the materials.

The structural elements of the fabric also became a determining factor in their work. Albers and Stölzl exposed the strong verticals and horizontals of the warp and weft, often simply by using a plain weave and contrasting fibers. The effect is an extraordinary surface and textural quality that reflects the function of the fabric.

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The textiles in this exhibition were developed for a variety of functions, including spanning material for radio speakers, dust-repellent wall coverings, and upholstery fabrics for car seats and tubular-steel furniture. All the works are from the Museum's collection and represent the majority of its holdings by Albers and Stölzl.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.