

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES THREE MAJOR WORKS BY AMERICAN ARTIST BRICE MARDEN

Paintings to Be Included in Major Marden Retrospective in Fall 2006

New York, December 23, 2005 – The Museum of Modern Art has acquired three major paintings by Brice Marden, each representing a distinct period in the American artist's career, Director Glenn D. Lowry announced today. *Return I* (1964–65) and *Couplet IV* (1988–89) are fractional and promised gift of Kathy and Richard S. Fuld, Jr. *Lethykos (for Tonto)* (1976) is a fractional and promised gift of Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis. Kathy Fuld is a Trustee of the Museum, and Marie-Josée Kravis is President of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

The Museum has acquired 14 additional works, a combination of gifts and purchases, for its collection of painting and sculpture, including two recent works by Gabriel Orozco.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Trustees and other donors whose gifts to the Museum make these acquisitions possible," said Mr. Lowry. "These superb examples of Marden's work will greatly enhance our holdings of this important artist and will be vital additions to the major retrospective of Marden's work that we'll present next fall."

Brice Marden (b. 1938) began his career when artists such as Andy Warhol, Frank Stella, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jasper Johns were establishing powerful alternatives to Abstract Expressionism. Marden's own artistic trajectory over the next 40 years established him as a seminal modern artist. *Return I* is among the first of his works to incorporate his signature device: a margin along the lower edge of the painting, where the drops and layers of his process are explicitly apparent. *Lethykos (for Tonto)*, made a decade later, is one of his first four-panel paintings and is made with a mixture of oil paint and beeswax, a combination Marden used from the late 1960s through the mid-1980s to give an opaque and absorbent quality to the paintings' surfaces. With *Couplet*, Marden introduced a new monumentality to his painting. The 12 x 5-foot painting is the last in a series of four and features a vertical composition based on the columnar format of the characters of a Chinese poem.

The three Marden paintings will be included in *Plane Image: A Brice Marden Retrospective*, an exhibition of nearly 100 paintings and drawings spanning the artist's 45-year career, which opens in October 2006 at MoMA and will be curated by Gary Garrels, Senior Curator at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles and former Chief Curator of Drawings at MoMA.

The Museum has also purchased two recent works by Gabriel Orozco: *Kytes Tree* (2005) and *Tables* (2005). *Kytes Tree* is among the most recent in an ongoing series of acrylic paintings that are initiated according to a system modeled on the knight's moves in the game of chess; *Tables*, the third in an ongoing series of "work tables" that Orozco has created since the late 1980s, consists of small sculptural objects, both found and made, that speak to the intersection of art and daily life and demonstrate the evolution of the artist's ideas.

Recent acquisitions have also brought three new artists into the Museum's collection: Tim Bavington (British, b. 1966), with *Physical S.E.X.* (2005), a fractional and promised gift of Michael Lynne; Carmen Herrera (Cuban, b. 1915), with *Untitled* (1952), a gift of Agnes Gund and Tony Bechara; and Mangelos (Dimitrije Basicevic) (Yugoslavian, 1921–1987), with *Energy (Energija)* (1978) and *Manifest de la Relation* (1977–78).

Five additional artists entering the Museum's collection of painting and sculpture are Martin Creed (British, b. 1968), with *Work No. 227, the lights going on and off* (2000); Marlene Dumas (South African, b. 1953), with *The Painter* (1994), a fractional and promised gift of Martin Eisenberg; Cady Noland (American, b. 1956), with *The American Trip* (1988); Mika Rottenberg (Israeli, b. Argentina, 1976), with *Tropical Breeze* (2004); and Raqib Shaw (Indian, b. 1974), with *Garden of Earthly Delights X* (2004), a gift of Adam Sender and George Lindemann, Jr. The Museum has also added Mona Hatoum's (Lebanese, b. 1952) *+ and -* (1994–2004) and Yayoi Kusama's (Japanese, b. 1928) *Suitcase* (2003), a gift of Agnes Gund, to its collection of painting and sculpture.

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