

**MoMA LAUNCHES SERIES OF SPECIAL COLLECTION DISPLAYS WITH
*FOCUS: PAUL KLEE***

Future Installations Will Highlight David Smith and Alexander Calder

Focus: Paul Klee

The Estée and Joseph H. Lauder Gallery, fifth floor
November 22, 2006-March 5, 2007

New York, November 22, 2006—The Museum of Modern Art launches *Focus*, a new series of special collection displays highlighting noteworthy aspects of the Museum's extensive collections. The *Focus* series provides an opportunity for in-depth and cross-disciplinary presentations that will variously concentrate on a single artist's achievement, on broader artistic manifestations, on particular historical moments, or on significant groupings of works. This initiative aims to animate the larger history set forth in the Painting and Sculpture galleries, ensuring that a greater number of familiar and unfamiliar works in the collection are rotated on and off view.

The first in the series, ***Focus: Paul Klee***, is an installation of 32 paintings, prints, and drawings that spans Klee's career from 1903 to 1940. It celebrates the depth and breadth of the artist's achievement, while reflecting the scope of the Museum's holdings of his work. The Museum's commitment to Paul Klee (German, b. Switzerland, 1879–1940) dates from its first survey of his work in 1930, the year following its founding. *Focus: Paul Klee* is organized by Lillian Tone, Assistant Curator, the Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, and is on view from November 22, 2006 through March 5, 2007.

Klee's oeuvre is characterized by fluid movement between genres and categories: figurative and abstract, descriptive and narrative, openly gestural and tightly geometric, austere linear and intensely chromatic. *Focus: Paul Klee* brings together iconic paintings like *Around the Fish* (1926) and *Cat and Bird* (1928) along with other superb though lesser-known examples, such as *Introducing the Miracle* (1916), *In the Grass* (1930) or *Equals Infinity* (1932). Each phase of the artist's career is represented. His early experiments include etching and aquatint made in Bern such as *Menacing Head* (1905), and the spiritually inclined drawings proceeding from his association with the Blaue Reiter group after 1911 in Munich, such as *Introducing the Miracle* (1916). Later works show the technically inventive paintings and drawings made during Klee's tenure at the Bauhaus between 1920 and 1931 in Weimar and Dessau, exemplified by *Portrait of an Artist* (1927). Also featured are boldly simplified works such as *Intoxication* (1939), created during his last seven years in Switzerland, where he took refuge from Nazi Germany before his death in 1940.

Upcoming *Focus* displays include *Focus: David Smith* opening on February 27, 2007 and *Focus: Alexander Calder* on March 9, 2007.

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High resolution images are available at www.moma.org/press

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Public Information:

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday

Museum Admission: \$20 adults; \$16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs)

Target Free Friday Nights 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Film Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)

Subway: E or V train to Fifth Avenue/53rd Street

Bus: On Fifth Avenue, take the M1, M2, M3, M4, or M5 to 53rd Street. On Sixth Avenue, take the M5, M6, or M7 to 53rd Street. Or take the M57 and M50 crosstown buses on 57th and 50th Streets.

The public may call 212/708-9400 for detailed Museum information.

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