

EXHIBITION EXAMINES PIVOTAL THREE-YEAR PERIOD IN THE HISTORY OF ART AND CULTURE IN NEW YORK CITY

Focusing on the Years 1962 to 1964, the Exhibition Examines How Artists Living and Working in NYC Responded to the Epoch-Changing Events That Marked This Moment in Time

New York: 1962-1964

July 22, 2022–January 8, 2023

New York NY, February 24, 2022—The Jewish Museum will present ***New York: 1962-1964***, an exhibition that explores a pivotal three-year period in the history of art and culture in New York City, examining how artists living and working in New York responded to their rapidly changing world.

Installed across two floors, this immersive exhibition will present more than 150 works of art—all made or seen in New York between 1962-1964—including painting, sculpture, photography, and film, alongside fashion, design, dance, poetry, and ephemera. The exhibition will be on view at the Jewish Museum from July 22, 2022, through January 8, 2023.

New York: 1962-1964 is the last project conceived and curated by Germano Celant, the renowned art historian, critic, and curator who passed away in 2020. Celant was approached in 2017 by the Museum to address its influential role in the early 1960s New York art scene during a momentous period in American history. The result is *New York: 1962-64*, which uses the Jewish Museum's role as the jumping-off point to examine how artists living and working in New York City responded to the events that marked this moment in time. The exhibition and accompanying book have been developed by Studio Celant according to his curatorial vision in close collaboration with the Jewish Museum: Claudia Gould, Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director; Darsie Alexander, Susan and Elihu Rose Chief Curator; Sam Sackeroff, Lerman-Neubauer Associate Curator; and Kristina Parsons, Leon Levy Curatorial Assistant. The exhibition is designed by Selldorf Architects. It will be accompanied by a 350-page catalogue developed by Celant and designed by Michael Rock from 2x4.

New York: 1962–1964 aligns with the years of Alan Solomon’s tenure as the Jewish Museum’s influential director. Solomon organized ambitious exhibitions that were dedicated to what he called the “New Art,” transforming the Jewish Museum into one of the most important cultural hubs in New York. In addition to daring surveys of cutting-edge painting and sculpture, he also organized the first-ever museum retrospectives of both Robert Rauschenberg (1963) and Jasper Johns (1964). When Solomon was tasked with overseeing the United States Pavilion at the 1964 Venice Biennale, he took the opportunity to showcase work by Rauschenberg and Johns, and their peers John Chamberlain, Jim Dine, Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, Claes Oldenburg, and Frank Stella. Members of what Solomon called a “New York School,” these artists distilled what he described as a “new sense of beauty” from “the rawness and disorder of the metropolitan scene.” When Rauschenberg was awarded the Biennale’s International Grand Prize in Painting, it contributed to a shift in emphasis from Europe to America, cementing New York as a center of the art world for decades to come.

During the timeframe explored in this exhibition, epoch-changing events—such as the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963), and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1963)—occurred at rapid speed and fundamentally altered the social and political landscape of New York City and the nation more broadly. An unprecedented economic boom broadened the array of consumer goods that were available to shoppers, and an expanding media network introduced new voices into increasingly urgent conversations about race, class, and gender. Emerging in this context, a generation of New York-based painters, sculptors, dancers, filmmakers, and poets rose to prominence, incorporating material directly from their urban surroundings and producing works that were as rich and complex as the city itself.

Organized chronologically and bookended by the *International Exhibition of the New Realists* exhibition at the Sidney Janis Gallery in 1962 and the 32nd Venice Biennale in 1964, *New York: 1962–1964* traces a remarkable period in



the history of American art when artists working in a broad range of mediums showed renewed interest in the depth and intensity of everyday life. Described as “New Realism,” “Commonism,” “Factualism,” and “Pop,” their diverse practices developed new techniques and reached new audiences. The exhibition will explore the spaces where that innovation took place, including the galleries and museums where their work was shown, as well as vernacular settings like living rooms, lofts, kitchens, and storefronts where Americans went about their lives. Drawing energy from the cityscape, artists moved back and forth between their studios and the surrounding streets, junkyards, laundromats, and restaurants, making new kinds of work that resisted easy definition.

New York: 1962–1964 will include selections from key exhibitions that took place in New York during the period and examined how artists engaged with their urban environment, including the *International Exhibition of the New Realists* (1962) at the Sidney Janis Gallery, *Six Painters and the Object* (1963) at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and *Americans 1963* (1963) at The Museum of Modern Art. Other highlights include artwork featured in *The First International Girlie Exhibit* (1964) that examined mass-media representations of the female figure; pieces by the New York School Poets that explored the aesthetic potential of everyday speech; and work made by members of the Spiral Group and the Kamoinge Workshop, groundbreaking collectives that formed in New York in response to the struggle for civil rights. The surveys *Toward a New Abstraction* (1963) and *Recent American Sculpture* (1964) and the retrospectives *Robert Rauschenberg* (1963) and *Jasper Johns* (1964), which took place at the Jewish Museum under Solomon’s leadership, are also sources for many artworks included. The exhibition concludes with a gallery focused on the United States Pavilion from the 1964 Venice Biennale.

Artists featured include Diane Arbus, Lee Bontecou, Chryssa, Merce Cunningham, Jim Dine, Melvin Edwards, Dan Flavin, Lee Friedlander, Nancy Grossman, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Ellsworth Kelly, Yayoi Kusama, Norman Lewis, Roy Lichtenstein, Marisol, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson,



Isamu Noguchi, Claes Oldenburg, Yvonne Rainer, Robert Rauschenberg, Faith Ringgold, Larry Rivers, James Rosenquist, Miriam Schapiro, Carolee Schneemann, George Segal, Jack Smith, Harold Stevenson, Marjorie Strider, Mark di Suvero, Bob Thompson, and Andy Warhol, among many others.

The design of the exhibition by Selldorf Architects will feature material from popular culture, including newspapers, magazines, television clips, popular music, consumer products, furniture, and fashion, as well as vernacular objects salvaged from the city.

The exhibition will be accompanied by 350-page catalogue edited by Germano Celant, designed by 2x4, and co-published by the Jewish Museum and Skira Editore. Modeled on the scale and format of *Life* magazine, one of the most widely read publications of the time, the volume presents a detailed chronology of the period and features essays from a multidisciplinary group of contributors, including: Emily Bauman; Ninotchka D. Bennahum (Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara); Jennifer G. Buonocore-NedreLOW; Olivia Casa; Laura Conconi; J. English Cook; Maria Corti; Michaëla de Lacaza Mohrmann; Joshua B. Guild (Associate Professor, Princeton University); Liz Hirsch; Hiroko Ikegami (Professor, Kobe University); Susan Murray (Professor, New York University); Kristina Parsons; Sam Sackeroff; Benjamin Serby (Assistant Professor, Adelphi University); Jennifer Sichel (Assistant Professor, University of Louisville) and Robert Slifkin (Professor, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University). The book will be available worldwide and at the Jewish Museum's Cooper Shop.

New York: 1962-1964 will be supported by a wide range of public programs, including screenings of Hollywood classics from the period organized in partnership with Film Forum, and screenings of groundbreaking underground films organized in partnership with Film at Lincoln Center.

Accompanying the exhibition will be an audio tour available within the



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SUPPORT

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About the Jewish Museum

Located on New York City's famed Museum Mile, the Jewish Museum is a distinctive hub for art and Jewish culture for people of all backgrounds.

Founded in 1904, the Museum was the first institution of its kind in the United States and is one of the oldest Jewish museums in the world.

Devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, the Museum offers diverse exhibitions and programs, and maintains a unique collection of nearly 30,000 works of art, ceremonial objects, and media reflecting the global Jewish experience over more than 4,000 years.

The public may call 212.423.3200 or visit TheJewishMuseum.org for more information.

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