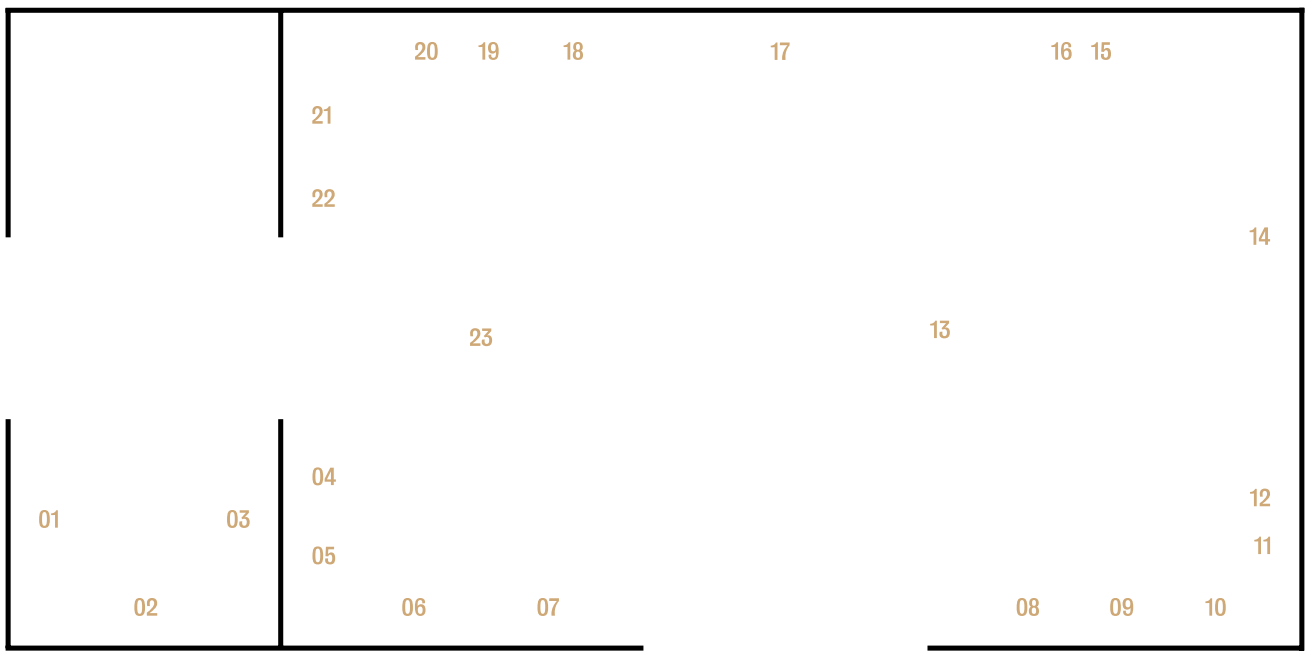
# Not New Work: Vincent Fecteau Selects from the Collection

July 25–November 8, 2009




In a marked departure from past *New Work* exhibitions, which have typically introduced recent work by a selected artist, this presentation features a group of drawings, paintings, and sculptures drawn from the museum's permanent collection. These works were chosen by the San Francisco–based sculptor Vincent Fecteau. Over the past year, he has sifted through thousands of objects, gradually narrowing his choices down to just over twenty pieces that have rarely, if ever, been on display. In organizing the exhibition, Fecteau excavated the museum using his own aesthetic lens, seeking out idiosyncratic works of art and thought-provoking juxtapositions in an effort to offer a new window onto the collection. The resulting presentation serves as a diagram of his movement through the museum's holdings. Rather than advancing from a prescribed thematic narrative, his selections invite visitors to consider how a narrative evolves from the experience of viewing. In this way Fecteau privileges a visual encounter with the object over an understanding shaped by a discursive history.

The exhibition represents the artist's attempt to depict more complicated aspects of collecting and question traditional ideas of what constitutes a masterpiece. Fecteau has a deep interest in narratives that often go untold but are present nonetheless. This grouping of works reflects his desire to talk about how the life of an art object extends beyond what is typically seen in the museum. In effect, his selections pose important questions about what makes a work of art relevant, interesting, and worthy of attention.

Apsara DiQuinzio, Assistant Curator, Painting and Sculpture

In conjunction with the exhibition, SFMOMA has commissioned Fecteau to create an artist's book that consists of approximately a dozen loose postcards featuring Christopher Wilmarth's *New* (1968). The book is available for purchase in the MuseumStore.

The artist and curator would like to thank Geoff Kaplan, Ian Reeves, and interns Anna Schneider and Joanna Szupinska for their assistance with this project.

**Works in the Exhibition**

01 Ralph Goings, *Body Reflection,* 1962; oil and graphite on canvas; gift of Bill Bass, 75.181.

02 Joe Goode, *Untitled (Torn Sky Painting),* 1975–76; oil on canvas; gift of Time Cloud Partnership, 85.154.

03 Dorothy Reid, *Carving,* 1975; wood; purchased with the aid of funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1975 Soap Box Derby, and the New Future Fund Drive, 77.82.

04 Wayne Thiebaud, *Untitled (Two Ice Cream Scoops on Plate),* ca. 1985; watercolor on paper; gift of the Thiebaud Family, 97.665.

05 Peter Young, *Untitled,* 1968; crayon on paper; gift of Carlos Villa, 71.36.

06 Ron Nagle, *Untitled,* 1982; earthenware with glazes; gift of Win Ng, 84.1731.

07 Eric Rudd, *Night Fairy,* 1974; acrylic and lacquer on polyurethane; gift of Irving G. Rudd, 76.210.

08 Judy Chicago, *Georgia O'Keeffe Plate #1,* 1979; china paint on porcelain; gift of Mary Ross Taylor, 82.293.

09 Lynda Benglis, *Lambda,* 1972–73; aluminum screen, cloth, plaster, paint, and sparkles, and zinc and aluminum coating; gift of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Daniels, 79.51.

10 H. C. Westermann, *Bullseye,* 1963; glass, mirrored glass, wood, and ink; purchase, 83.152.

11 Richard Faralla, *Relief I: Homage to John Baxter,* 1966; paper, egg cartons, wood, latex paint, and sand; gift of the artist in memory of John Baxter, 67.7.

12–13 Christopher Wilmarth, *New,* 1968; plywood and glass; gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dirickson, Jr., 82.416.A–E. *Glass Drawing,* 1967; glass, paper, and wood; gift of Carlos Villa, 72.55.

14 Ralph Humphrey, *Untitled,* 1972; acrylic on canvas; gift of Arthur A. Goldberg, 77.2.

15 Charles Howard, *Banner,* 1934; oil on canvas; promised gift of the family of Robert B. Howard and Adaline Kent.

16 H. C. Westermann, *Secrets,* 1964; American walnut and brass; purchase, 77.193.

17 Robert Overby, *Hall painting, first floor,* 1971; latex rubber, plaster, paint, and burnt wood; gift of Mandy and Clifford J. Einstein, 2003.354.

18 Jess, *Pandora Dawn,* 1959; oil on canvas; gift of Robert S. Rheem, 2000.435.

19 Tom of Finland (Touko Laaksonen), *Untitled,* 1983; graphite on paper; gift of the Tom of Finland Foundation, 97.236.

20 Diego Rivera, *Untitled (Man standing),* 1931; graphite on paper; William L. Gerstle Collection, gift of William L. Gerstle, 41.3146.

21 George Segal, *Chicken,* from the series *7 Objects in a Box,* 1965; pigmented resin; gift of Lenore and Allan Sindler, 76.254.

22 Friedel Dzubas, *Procession,* 1971; acrylic on canvas; gift of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fenton, 78.186.

23 Max Ernst, *Bauta,* 1964; glass; gift of Peggy Guggenheim, 67.52.A–B.

A PDF version of this card is available at sfmoma.org.

## About the Artists

**Lynda Benglis,** American, born 1941
Benglis was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and currently lives and works in New York and Santa Fe. She has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including the 1973 Whitney Biennial and, most recently, *WACK: Art and the Feminist Revolution,* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2007).

**Judy Chicago,** American, born 1939
Chicago was born Judith Cohen in Chicago, Illinois. Her work has been the subject of many major solo exhibitions. Her well-known installation *The Dinner Party* (1974–79), which takes the form of a monumental banquet, went on view at SFMOMA for the first time in 1979 and remains on permanent display at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

**Friedel Dzubas,** German, 1915–1993
Dzubas was born in Berlin and emigrated to New York in the late 1930s. A friend of Catherine Dreier and a member of New York's famed Société Anonyme, he participated in group shows at the Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, and in Clement Greenberg's 1964 exhibition *Post-Painterly Abstraction,* which opened at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

**Max Ernst,** German, 1891–1976
Ernst was born in Brühl, Germany. Associated with Dada and Surrealism, he won the prestigious Grand Prix at the 1953 Venice Biennale and in 1975 he received retrospective exhibitions in New York and Paris.

**Richard Faralla,** American, 1916–1996
Feralla was born in Brooklyn and during the 1950s studied in San Francisco at the California School of Fine Arts and San Francisco State College. In 1955 he received a solo exhibition at SFMOMA. He began working with driftwood in the 1960s.

**Ralph Goings,** American, born 1928
Goings was born in Corning, California, and now lives and works in Santa Cruz. His paintings are associated with the photorealist, or hyperrealist, movement of the 1960s. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions in this country and abroad including *Documenta V* in Kassel, West Germany (1972), and *Representations of America* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (1978).

**Joe Goode,** American, born 1937
Goode was born in Oklahoma City and currently lives and works in Venice, California. His work has been included in important group exhibitions around the United States, including *Made in California,* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2000), and *Hand Painted Pop: American Art in Transition, 1955–1962,* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (1992).

**Charles Howard,** American, 1899–1978
Howard was born in Montclair, New Jersey. In 1902 his family moved to Berkeley, where his father, the architect John Galen Howard (1864–1931), designed the UC Berkeley campus. His first solo show was held in New York in 1926 at the Whitney Studio Club. His work was later included in Julien Levy's famous *International Surrealist Exhibition* (1936), and shown at Peggy Guggenheim's New York gallery The Art of This Century in 1942.

**Ralph Humphrey,** American, 1932–1992
Humphrey was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and moved to New York in 1956. In 1959 he had his first solo exhibition at the Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. His work was subsequently shown in many other New York galleries, including Green Gallery, Bykert Gallery, Andre Emmerich Gallery, Willard Gallery, John Weber Gallery, and Mary Boone Gallery.

**Jess,** American, 1923–2004
Jess was born Burgess Collins in Long Beach, California. Together with the poet Robert Duncan, who was his life partner, and the painter Harry Jacobus, he opened the King Ubu Gallery on Fillmore Street in San Francisco in 1953. His 1993–94 retrospective exhibition *Jess: A Grand Collage, 1951–1993,* traveled from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo to San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

**Ron Nagle,** American, born 1939
Nagle was born in San Francisco, where he continues to live and work. His art has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad, including shows at SFMOMA; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**Robert Overby,** American, 1935–1993
Overby was born in Harvey, Illinois. His work has been the subject of solo shows at the Luckman Gallery and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, among others. He has been included in group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston.

**Dorothy Reid,** American, born 1944
Reid lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her work was the subject of the solo exhibition *MATRIX 57: Dorothy Reid* at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (1982), and was included in the group exhibition *Meaning and Message* at the Oakland Museum of California (1999).

**Diego Rivera,** Mexican, 1886–1957
Rivera was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. In 1921 he famously became involved with the Mexican government's mural program along with José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros, among others. His work has been the subject of numerous exhibitions, including a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1931), and, more recently, at the National Art Museum, Mexico City (2007).

**Eric Rudd,** American, born 1948
Rudd was born in Washington, D.C., and now lives and works in North Adams, Massachusetts. In 1973 his work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and he was included in that city's International Sculpture Conference Exhibition in 1980. In 1990 he founded the Contemporary Artists Center, Berkshire School of Contemporary Art.

**George Segal,** American, 1924–2000
Segal was born in New York. He exhibited at Hansa Gallery, New York, in the 1950s. Over the course of his career his work was included in numerous solo and group exhibitions in New York, including *Artists of the New York School: Second Generation,* at the Jewish Museum (1957), and a 1960 solo show at Green Gallery.

**Wayne Thiebaud,** American, born 1920
Thiebaud was born in Mesa, Arizona, but shortly thereafter his family moved to California, where he continues to live and work. In 1960 he had his first one-person show at SFMOMA, followed in 1962 by a solo show in New York at the Sidney Janis Gallery. In 2000, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, organized a retrospective of his work that traveled to the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

**Tom of Finland,** Finnish, 1920–1991
Tom of Finland was born Touko Laaksonen in Kaarina, Finland. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at numerous venues, including the Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland, in 2006. Most recently his work was included in the group show *Glossolalia: Languages of Drawing* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2008).

**H. C. Westermann,** American, 1922–1981
Westermann was born Horace Clifford Westermann in Los Angeles. His work has been included in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including retrospectives at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, in 1978, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, in 2001.

**Christopher Wilmarth,** American, 1943–1987
Wilmarth was born in Sonoma, California. Since 1979 his work has been included in exhibitions at the Seattle Art Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Dia Center for the Arts, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University.

**Peter Young,** American, born 1940
Young was born in Pittsburgh and lives and works in Bisbee, Arizona. He has been included in several exhibitions, including the 1968 and 1970 Whitney Annuals, at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and *Documenta V* in Kassel, Germany, in 1972. P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, organized a retrospective of his work in 2007.

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**Vincent Fecteau,** American, born 1969
Fecteau was born in Islip, New York. He received a B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1992. His work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum and, most recently, at the Art Institute of Chicago, and in 2004 was featured at the Van Abbemuseum, Eindohoven, along with that of Tomma Abts. He has had solo exhibitions at Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Cologne; Greengrassi, London; Feature, New York; Marc Foxx, Los Angeles; and Paule Anglim, San Francisco. This fall, Fecteau will have an exhibition at Matthew Marks Gallery, New York.

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