

MoMA PS1 presents

NANCY GROSSMAN: HEADS

May 22—August 15, 2011

**Opening Day Celebration:
Sunday, May 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

MoMA PS1 presents *Nancy Grossman: Heads*, a solo exhibition that focuses on the artist's evocative head sculptures. Nancy Grossman has been making art for more than fifty years and is best known for her leather-wrapped sculptures of heads, which the artist made from the late 1960s through to the 1980s. This exhibition brings together fourteen sculptures, highlighting the formal and expressive range within the series. *Nancy Grossman: Heads* is on view in the Second Floor Kunsthalle Gallery from May 22 through August 15, 2011.



While Grossman regularly refers to the heads as self-portraits, they are not made to resemble the artist herself. They speak to the malice and subservience of both psychology and worldly conflict. Though the works are often rendered blind and mute, they still allude to the role of the silent witness amid cruelty and disorder. The creation of the sculptures was inspired in part by the liberation movements of the late 1960s and the Vietnam War, responding to the violence and social upheaval of the era. Today, Grossman's heads continue to address the anxiety and turmoil that weigh upon the individual and contemporary society.

Each head was carved from a block of wood and overlaid with sections of found leather—often sourced from articles of clothing or even boxing gloves—which are sewn, nailed, or zippered together. The life-size sculptures are startling for what they obscure as much as for what they expose. Eyes, ears, and mouths are typically covered, bound, sewn shut, or otherwise restrained. Some heads incorporate found objects that result in horns and other protrusions. The unsettling works have been a source of inspiration for her fellow artists and those of younger generations, and have been notably photographed by Robert Mapplethorpe and Richard Avedon.

Nancy Grossman (American, b. 1940) lives and works in New York. She has been exhibiting her work since 1959 and was the subject of a retrospective at Hillwood Art Museum, Brookville, NY, in 1991. She will open a major survey in 2012 at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. Grossman has been the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1965–66), an NEA Fellowship (1984), a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant (1996–97), and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2001).

Nancy Grossman: Heads is organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Director of MoMA PS1 and Chief Curator at Large of The Museum of Modern Art; and Christopher Y. Lew, Assistant Curator of MoMA PS1.

The exhibition is generously supported by The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

Image: *Blunt*, 1968, Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, LLC, New York, NY

DIRECTIONS to MoMA PS1: 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101

SUBWAY:

E + M trains: Get off at the 23rd St./Ely Ave. stop. While still in the station, follow signs to the 7 train to exit onto Jackson Avenue. Walk right one block to 46th Avenue.

7 Train: Get off at the 45th Rd. / Courthouse Square. Exit onto Jackson Avenue and walk right one block to 46th Avenue.

G Train: Get off at the 21st St./Van Alst stop. MoMA PS1 is the large brick building across the street to the left. Walk around the building to come to our front entrance.

BUS

Q67 to Jackson and 46th Aves.

B62 to 46th Ave.

L.I.R.R. (any of the following options)

Take the L.I.R.R. to Hunterspoint Ave. and take the 7 train towards Flushing (see directions for the 7 train).

Take the L.I.R.R. to the Jamaica station and take the E train towards Manhattan (see directions for the E train).

Take the L.I.R.R. to Woodside and take the 7 train towards Time Square (see directions for the 7 train).

CAR:

From Manhattan:

Take the Midtown Tunnel at 34th Street. Exit at 21st St./Van Alst (first exit after the toll booths). Continue through two stoplights. MoMA PS1 will be on your right, across the street from the post office. The entrance to MoMA PS1 is on Jackson Avenue.

OR: Take the Queensboro Bridge at 59th Street: use the lower roadway. When you get off the bridge, take the Queens Boulevard service lane (which is all the way to the right). Turn right onto Jackson Avenue and follow it to 46th Avenue. MoMA PS1 will be on the right side of the street.

From Queens/Long Island:

Take the Long Island Expressway (495) West. Exit at Van Dam Street (last exit before the toll booths). Turn right on Van Dam and make a left onto Thomson Avenue. From Thompson Ave., make another left onto Jackson Avenue. Continue straight on Jackson for three blocks. MoMA PS1 is located at the intersection of 46th Avenue and Jackson Avenue.

From Brooklyn:

Take the BQE North to the McGuinness Boulevard exit. Once you have exited, veer to the left. Follow McGuinness Boulevard over the Pulaski Bridge. At the bottom of the bridge, make a right onto Jackson Avenue. Continue on Jackson Avenue for three blocks and MoMA PS1 will appear on your left, at the intersection of Jackson Avenue and 46th Street.

From the Bronx, Westchester and Connecticut:

Take the Triborough Bridge to the Grand Central Parkway. Exit onto the BQE (278) West. Exit onto the Long Island Expressway and follow directions from Queens/Long Island (see above).