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**New Museum Presents First US Museum Exhibition of Works by Dorothy Iannone**

New York, NY...Boston-born, Berlin-based artist **Dorothy Iannone**, now, at the age of seventy-five, will have her first solo show in a US institution at the **New Museum**. This long-overdue exhibition will feature Iannone's signature early work, made between 1966 and 1986, including sculptures, paintings, drawings, and a video box. Since the 1960s, Iannone has continued to portray the female sexual experience as one of transcendence, union, and spirituality. Iannone works from the first-person perspective, charting her life and lovemaking onto wood, canvas, paper, and cloth, as well as through video and sound. Iannone's stylized, intricate, and colorful depictions of herself and her longtime lover, artist Dieter Roth, synthesize elements of Egyptian frescoes, Byzantine mosaics, and ancient fertility statues. Inverting the gender paradigm of artistic inspiration, Iannone often painted Roth, her self-declared muse, depicting both him and herself as active lovers, comfortable with their desire and pleasure. **"Dorothy Iannone: Lioness"** will be on view in the New Museum's lobby gallery from July 22 through October 18, 2009.

The exhibition will include Iannone's *An Icelandic Saga* (1978-86), a series of forty-eight drawings depicting how Iannone and Roth met, as well a selection of large-scale paintings, small statuettes from the *People* series (1966-68), and *I Was Thinking of You III* (1975/2006), a painted video box that captures the artist's face as she has an orgasm. By removing self-consciousness from her work, she dispels the taboo that so often surrounds sexuality, elevating it to an act of both bodily and spiritual union.

Since she started painting in 1959, Iannone has challenged contemporary culture through her singular artistic voice as well as her radical sensibility. In 1961, Iannone attempted to bring her copy of Henry Miller's sexually explicit book *Tropic of Cancer* to the United States. After it was confiscated at the airport, she filed suit against the government to have it returned to her, which concluded with the US raising their importation ban on Miller's books. In another incident, Iannone was to be featured in a group exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern in 1969. The morning before it opened, the board of directors demanded that the genitals in Iannone's paintings be covered; in protest, Dieter Roth removed his work from the show and director Harald Szeemann resigned from his position. "Lioness," the title of this exhibition, is taken from Roth's pet name for Iannone.

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“Dorothy Iannone: Lioness” is curated by Jarrett Gregory, Curatorial Assistant.

**About the Artist**

Dorothy Iannone was born in 1933 in Boston; she currently lives and works in Berlin. Iannone began painting in 1959 and since then has been featured in numerous exhibitions, mostly in Europe. Her solo shows include “Follow me,” September, Berlin (2008), “She’s a freedom fighter,” Air de Paris, Paris (2007), “Seek the Extremes...,” Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2006), and “Dorothy Iannone,” The Wrong Gallery at Tate Modern, London (2005). Group shows include “Body politicx,” Witte de With, Rotterdam (2007), “Domino,” Air de Paris, Paris (2006), “Day For Night,” Whitney Biennial, New York (2006), Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art (2005), and “Dieter Roth & Dorothy Iannone,” Sprengel Museum, Hanover (2005).

The New Museum featured Iannone in the *Get Lost* artist map of New York City in 2007.

“Dorothy Iannone: Lioness” will be the artist’s first solo show in a US institution. An exhibition of Iannone’s recent work will be on view at the Anton Kern Gallery in New York, from June 25 through August 7, 2009.

**About the New Museum**

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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