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## GROUP EXHIBITION OF ART RELATED TO THE SCIENCE OF CHAOS TO OPEN AT THE NEW MUSEUM

Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos, a group exhibition of art that engages with the emerging science of chaos, will be on view September 14 through November 26, 1989 at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York. Organized by Curator Laura Trippi, the exhibition will feature paintings, sculpture, photographs, site-specific installations, video, and video documentation by approximately 30 artists, including Glenn Branca, Ellen Brooks, Eve Andr  e Laram  e, Jill Levine, Cady Noland, David Nyzio, Walter Robinson, Andres Serrano, David Smith, and James Welling, among others.

The exhibition takes its title, Strange Attractors, from the term used to describe the hidden structures of systems whose basic states are "chaotic," such as cloud formations, turbulence in fluids, and brain waves in their natural state. While specific behavior of these systems is impossible to predict, scientists can now identify underlying patterns within the chaotic activity using new mathematical models.

From its inception in the 1960s and 1970s, chaos science has been gathering momentum, breaking down barriers among the different sciences of mathematics, physics, biology, epidemiology, meteorology, and even economics, challenging fundamental assumptions and dominant methodologies. New scientific fields have emerged, including experimental mathematics, complexity science, and fractal geometry, that incorporate rather than eradicate randomness.

Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos calls attention to parallel developments in the arts, underscoring the shared intellectual, technological, and visual climate in which these related transformations have occurred. With

the publication of James Gleick's best seller Chaos: Making A New Science in 1987 and the dissemination of fractals--the richly patterned computer-generated images produced by a new branch of geometry--on television and in the popular press, the theories of chaos have begun to capture the popular imagination.

The exhibition brings together artworks that relate to chaos science in three ways. First, there are works by artists such as Carter Hodgkin and David Smith who specifically adopt the methods, images, and findings of chaos science. Hodgkin combines fractals and medical microphotography in paintings to create layers of images evoking natural and technological processes. Smith uses computer-generated sets of random numbers to determine the structure of his paintings that deal with the senselessness of war. Second, a rich and varied array of recent practices in the arts employ ideas and approaches analogous to those of chaos science. Walter Robinson's spin paintings and James Welling's photographs of crumpled foil, for example, use simple repetitive systems to produce complex and arbitrary images. Third, there are works that reflect a fascination with the chaotic in the more rhetorical sense of the word with its implications of imbalance, loss of control, and danger. This group includes assemblages by Cady Noland that evoke an underlying violence in American culture, and a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton and Kathryn Clark exploring the loss of memory and the ensuing fragmentation of experience.

Other artists whose works are featured in Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos are (Art)<sup>n</sup>, Dove Bradshaw, John Cage, Tony Cokes, Critical Art Ensemble, Collins & Milazzo, Steve DiBenedetto, Orshi Drozdik, Dana Duff, Laura Emrick, Diana Formisano, David Hammons, Jon Kessler, Zoe Leonard, Steve Miller, Peter Nagy, Joseph Nechvatal, Alastair Noble, Dan Reynolds, Jon Tower, Sokhi Wagner, Oliver Wasow, the team Grace Williams and Litina, The Wooster Group, and additional video and performance artists.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 64-page catalogue designed by the innovative M&Co. Contributors include John Cage, whose work with chance

operations has exerted a profound influence on the field of contemporary art; Luce Irigaray, the feminist theorist; Professor Martin Meisel of Columbia University; and exhibition organizer Laura Trippi. In addition, there will be an interview with photographer James Welling as well as contributions by writer and critic Gary Indiana and artist Orshi Drodzik.

Funding for Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos has been provided in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, Henry Luce III, and MTV Networks.

A companion exhibition, Strange Attractors: The Spectacle of Chaos, which will explore visual art, architecture, and decorative arts within the discourse of chaos theory, has been organized by Kevin Maginnis with curators Klaus Ottmann, Suzan Rezac, and Stephen Perella. This exhibition will be on view from September 14 through November 26, 1989 at 1440 North Dayton Street in Chicago.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday: noon to 6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

Recorded information concerning exhibitions and programs at The New Museum can be reached by calling 212/219-1355.