

FACT SHEET

Exhibition: *Philip Guston: Works on Paper*

Press Preview: **Thursday, May 1, 2008, 10 a.m. until noon**

Dates: May 2 through August 31, 2008

Summary: The extraordinary drawings of Philip Guston (1913–1980) are the subject of a major exhibition at The Morgan Library & Museum celebrating Guston as one of the most influential American artists of the twentieth century. This is the first retrospective of the artist's drawings in twenty years and the Morgan is the only American venue.

Organized in cooperation with the artist's estate, the exhibition examines the importance of drawing in Guston's art from the mid-1940s to 1980. *Philip Guston: Works on Paper* will feature approximately one hundred drawings, including rarely seen works from the artist's studio as well as major loans from museums and private collections.

Content: Guston was a prolific draftsman who often turned to drawing to explore new directions in his art before applying them to painting. Several times during the course of his career he stopped painting altogether to concentrate on drawing. Such phases mark the dramatic change in Guston's art from figuration to abstraction and vice versa. The exhibition has a concentration of works from several periods of Guston's career:

1950s: A central figure of the abstract expressionist movement, Guston developed a form of abstract, linear drawings characterized by a great concern with structure and balance.

1966 to 1968: For this two-year period, Guston stopped painting and produced only drawings of startling economy. These abstract drawings still included references to the real world, and it was through the hundreds of drawings created during this period that Guston moved away from abstraction to embrace a figurative, almost cartoonlike imagery that would typify his work during the last decade of his life.

Mid 1970s to 1980: Autobiographical references became more frequent in Guston's drawings, which included images of himself and his wife, Musa, often in situations reflecting the artist's anxieties. Guston's late drawings combine allegorical imagery, dominated by body fragments and accumulations of detritus, with more direct evocations of simple objects from his surroundings.

**Organization
and Sponsors:**

Philip Guston: Works on Paper is organized by the KunstMuseum Bonn and the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich. The exhibition premiered at the KunstMuseum Bonn in March 2007 and traveled to the Louisiana Museum in Denmark (summer 2007), the Albertina in Vienna (fall 2007) and most recently the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung in Munich (winter 2008).

The exhibition at the Morgan is made possible with the generous support of Musa and Tom Mayer, the Singer Family Foundation, and Renee and David McKee, with additional assistance from Monina von Opel and Edward Miller.

Catalogue:

A fully illustrated hardcover catalogue for *Philip Guston: Works on Paper*, published by Hatje Cantz in 2007, features essays by Michael Semff, Christoph Schreier, Isabelle Dervaux, and Poul Erik Tøjner (216 pages, 116 illustrations, 76 in color).

**Education and
Programs:**

To coincide with the exhibition, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Musa Mayer, advocate and author of *Night Studio: A Memoir of Philip Guston*, will discuss her father and his legacy with poet William Corbett, author of *Philip Guston's Late Work: A Memoir*.

Additionally, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., artist Carroll Dunham talks with critic and noted curator Robert Storr, Dean, Yale School of Art, about drawing and the importance of Guston's work for artists today.

For more information and other programs, please contact the Education Department at (212) 590-0333.

About the Morgan:

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its new campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

**Hours and
Location:**

The Morgan is located at 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street in New York and open Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Admission:

Adults \$12; children (under 16) \$8; seniors (65 and over) \$8; students (with current ID) \$8; free to members and children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.