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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 1, 2010**

**Robert Motherwell and Jasper Johns: Poetic Works as Metaphor**

**Abstract and Conceptual literary works at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum**

**September 11, 2010 through December 23, 2010**

**WINTER PARK, FL** – Robert Motherwell, one of the principal exponents of Abstract Expressionism, and Jasper Johns, one of the leaders responsible for the breakthrough from Abstract Expressionism to the Pop art movement which succeeded it, are brought together in this first ever showing of their combined bibliophilic works. The exhibition focuses on collaborative efforts with poets that share the artists' vision, showing at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. *Robert Motherwell and Jasper Johns: Poetic Works as Metaphor* focuses on two separate and isolated projects, each involving highly unusual collaborations between artist and poet.

The Motherwell prints, all lithographs which were made between 1980 and 1983, are directly related to a single poem, "El Negro Motherwell," written by the Spanish poet Rafael Alberti and dedicated to Motherwell. The Jasper Johns prints, etchings and aquatints, were produced in 1976 for publication with a series of five essays, written and interpreted in English and French, by the Irish-born poet Samuel Beckett. The collaborations were highly successful, though both projects might be considered more as responsive endeavors than true partnerships; it was the admiration and respect that each held for the other that brought about the alliances in the first place.

The end results were never the less extraordinary with nineteen lithographs by Motherwell and thirty-one etchings by Johns. The Motherwell prints are viewed with the full sheet exposed in their frames to show off the beauty of the hand-made paper with

deckled edges and cockled surface, each sheet selected by the artist for this series of works. Motherwell's interest in hand-made paper stems from his study of East Asian art which utilized Chinese calligraphy and Zen images. Motherwell often commented that paper was "the most sympathetic of all painting surfaces." And, of course, the making of the lithograph prints began with the brush creating a design on the printing plate. Jasper Johns' etchings include much of the familiar imagery which the artist uses in his work: flagstones, hatching, plaster casts, numbers and words. The familiar Johns' representations of the American Flag and the Target, however, are not included in this show. Johns is arguably acknowledged as the greatest printmaker of our time. His images are masterfully executed and beautifully printed with strong designs and a variety of compositional uses. The quality of the drypoint and aquatint, as well as the superb quality of the printing of, make the prints in this collaborative effort with Samuel Beckett a major work by the artist.

***Robert Motherwell and Jasper Johns: Poetic Works as Metaphor*** is a national touring exhibition organized by Contemporary and Modern Print Exhibitions of Laguna Niguel, California. Accompanying this exhibition is a gallery talk of the same name, presented by Reilly Rhodes, director and chief curator of CMPE on Friday, September 10, 2010 at 12:15 p.m. at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum. Mr. Rhodes will share his expertise on Robert Motherwell and Jasper Johns as it relates to this exhibition. This gallery talk is free and open to the public.

Gallery hours: Tues. – Sat. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., Sun. 1:00 to 5:00 pm.  
Admission: \$5.00 for adults. FREE to CFAM members, Rollins College faculty, staff, all students with current ID, and children. The Cornell Fine Arts Museum is located on the campus of Rollins College near downtown Winter Park. For additional information please call 407-646-2526 or cfam.rollins.edu.

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