

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PROJECTS: LUC COURCHESNE

June 23 - October 23, 1994

An interactive video and computer installation by Montreal-based artist Luc Courchesne (b. 1952) is on view from June 23 through October 23, 1994, at The Museum of Modern Art, as part of its ongoing **PROJECTS** series. Organized by Barbara London, Associate Curator, Department of Film and Video, **PROJECTS: LUC COURCHESNE** adapts the ancient convention of portraiture to contemporary tools. For this work, entitled *Family Portrait*, Courchesne uses video to reveal the physical and emotional characteristics of each person and to provide a lively context in which the viewer, as an active participant in the work, can "meet" the family members.

Four simply designed pedestals have been installed in the Projects Garden Hall Gallery, and above each pedestal floats an image of a person. The viewer can initiate a discussion with any one of the figures by selecting a question from a set on a small, accompanying computer screen. When the portrait verbally answers, another series of questions or comments appears on the computer screen. With increasing interaction, a dialogue develops according to the viewer's inquisitiveness and the subject's mood.

Courchesne spent hours with the eight people depicted in *Family Portrait*, all of whom live in Marseilles and belong to the same circle of friends. While traditional portrait-painters and photographers work to render a likeness that embodies for all time the essence of their subject, the

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