The Menil Collection announces the release of a new publication on artist Niki de Saint Phalle

The first North American exhibition and catalogue to survey the artist’s radical work of the 1960s

HOUSTON—August 3, 2021—The Menil Collection and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD) are pleased to announce the release of an exhibition catalogue to accompany *Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1960s*, the first major U.S. show to focus on the artist’s radical work of that decade. The exhibition and book explore two significant series in Saint Phalle’s career: the *Tirs*, or “shooting paintings,” and the powerful *Nanas*, lively sculptures of the female form. *Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1960s* will be on view at the Menil from September 10, 2021–January 23, 2022, before traveling to San Diego in April 2022.

Published by the Menil and MCASD, the volume was edited by exhibition co-curators Jill Dawsey, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and Michelle White, The Menil Collection. The catalogue also features scholarly essays by Amelia Jones and Alena J. Williams, a creative response by Ariana Reines, and contributions from Molly Everett and Kyla McDonald.

Central to the book are beautifully printed reproductions of *Tirs* and *Nanas*, as well as related works of the time. Texts explore the impact of Saint Phalle’s identity as a French-American artist, and the feminist origins and political context of her work, whether gun-shot paintings or outsized, exuberant *Nanas* sculptures. A highlight of the book is the first-ever comprehensive and heavily illustrated chronology of all of Saint Phalle’s known shooting sessions in Europe and the U.S., drawn from research conducted at the Niki Charitable Art Foundation, with archival images of the artist’s participatory and performance-based practice. In addition to a short biographical chronology, the book contains numerous period photographs of the artist with her work.

The book will be available for purchase online and at the Menil Collection Bookstore September 2021. The exhibition *Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1960s* is cocurated by Michelle White, Senior Curator, The Menil Collection, and Jill Dawsey, Curator, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. The catalogue is distributed by Yale University Press.

Price $50. 248 pages, 135 color + b/w illus., 7 1/4 x 10 inches. ISBN: 9780300260106.

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NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE IN THE 1960S

The First Free Women
Niki de Saint Phalle’s Nanas