

BACKGROUND - THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL - FORT WORTH, TEXAS MEETING

The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art is a membership organization of approximately 145 community leaders and art patrons from 18 states, the District of Columbia, and 9 foreign countries. Its purpose is to help create good will and understanding among people of different countries by encouraging the exchange of art exhibitions. Since the early '50s, the Council has sponsored the largest international exchange program of the visual arts in America.

The Chairman, Walter Dowling, former Ambassador to Bonn, now living in Paris, and the President, Mrs. Donald B. Straus of New York City, are among the members who will be attending the Fort Worth sessions. Others include Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President of The Museum of Modern Art; Mrs. John Farr Simmons of Washington, D.C., Chairman of the Council's Art in Embassies program; Philip Johnson, well-known architect; Harding Bancroft, Vice-President of The New York Times; Mrs. John David Eaton of Toronto; Lady Hulton from London; Mrs. Henry P. Russell, Trustee of the San Francisco Museum of Art; Mr. Lockwood Thompson, Cleveland lawyer and collector; Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Gelman of Mexico City; Mr. Gifford Phillips of Los Angeles; Mrs. John Cabot, wife of our former Ambassador to Poland; René d'Harnoncourt, Director of The Museum of Modern Art; and Waldo Rasmussen, Executive Director of the Museum's circulating program.

In addition to Mrs. J. Lee Johnson III and Mrs. Robert F. Windfohr, Texas members include: General Maurice Hirsch, John de Menil, and James Johnson Sweeney, all from Houston; and R. L. B. Tobin of San Antonio.

Honorary members of the Council include Mrs. John F. Kennedy, The Honorable C. Douglas Dillon, Senator J. William Fulbright, M. André Malraux and Sir Herbert Read.

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Since its inception in 1953, the Council has sponsored more than 80 exhibitions which have been seen in 65 countries. Among the 14 shows currently traveling under the Council's auspices are Contemporary Painters and Sculptors as Printmakers, which has just opened a tour of South America; The Bitter Years, a photographic exhibition now touring Sweden; a retrospective of work by the leading Abstract Expressionist Robert Motherwell, which has just closed in London and is about to open in Germany; Modern Sculpture, U.S.A., on view in Europe; and Drawings by Arshile Gorky, now on view in Yugoslavia.

Exhibitions of work from abroad now touring the United States under the Council's auspices, include The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture, Art Israel: Twenty-Six Painters and Sculptors, and Architecture without Architects.

In 1960, The International Council initiated a program of sending works of art to American ambassadors for embassy residences. Twenty-six residences have received these groups of loans. Currently, the Council is responsible for the collections in 12 countries, including Yaounde, Cameroon; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Helsinki; Paris; Reykjavik, Iceland; Mexico City; the Hague; and Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.