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Chronicle

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The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 11, 1966

Special to Houston newspapers

Houston residents attending the tenth Annual Meeting of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art in New York on November 9 and 10 included Mr. and Mrs. John de Menil, General Maurice Hirsch and Mrs. James Johnson Sweeney, who is an Honorary member of the Council.

Members of the Council were guests of honor at a special reception at the Whitney Museum of American Art on Wednesday; heard a lecture by Vincent Scully, Professor of Architectural History at Yale University on Thursday morning at the Frick Museum and had cocktails in the Library and Museum of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center before attending a performance of "La Gioconda" at the new Metropolitan Opera House that evening; they visited an exhibition of Pre-Hispanic Gold at the Colombia Center of the Republic of Colombia and four private collections of painting and sculpture, in addition to attending the regular business meetings of the Council at The Museum of Modern Art.

The Council, which sponsors the Museum's program of international exchange exhibitions, consists of 145 members from 18 states and nine foreign countries. Other Texans attending were: Mrs. J. Lee Johnson III and Mrs. Robert F. Windfohr of Fort Worth; Mrs. Eugene McDermott of Dallas; and Mr. R.L.B. Tobin of San Antonio. Mrs. Donald B. Straus, of New York, is President of the Council; Mr. Walter Dowling, former Ambassador to West Germany and now with the Atlantic Institute in Paris, is Chairman.

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At the business session on Wednesday, Waldo Rasmussen, Executive Director of the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions, announced plans for several new exhibitions, among them a major retrospective of paintings by WILLEM DE KOONING, which will be shown in The Netherlands -- the artist's birthplace -- in 1968 and later in London before being shown at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. The exhibition will be directed by Thomas B. Hess, well-known critic and editor of Art News.

TWENTIETH CENTURY ENGINEERING, an exhibition originally presented at the Museum in New York in 1964, has been reproduced with a French text and will open in Paris this month. Mr. Rasmussen also reported on a new show for Latin America: WORKS ON PAPER BY ROBERT MOTHERWELL, which will begin its tour there this spring, and on another new exhibition, 25 CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ARTISTS AS PRINTMAKERS, which leaves New York this month for a tour of Africa arranged by the Council's Art in Embassies Committee. It is the 31st exhibition sent abroad by the Committee since it was established in 1960.

Mr. Rasmussen also discussed the 16 exhibitions which have been circulating in Europe, Latin America and Asia under the Council's auspices during the past six months. Five of the exhibitions opened during the period, the others continued tours begun earlier. During the same period the Council sponsored tours of two exhibitions in the United States: ART ISRAEL and THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE, now on view at The Museum of Modern Art.

Photographs and additional information available from Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York, 10019. Circle 56900