

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The appointment of Gray Williams, Jr., as Director of Publications of The Museum of Modern Art, was announced by Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President of the Museum.

Mr. Williams will assume his new position on December 12, taking over responsibility for publications from Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions and Publications.

Mr. Wheeler continues as Director of Exhibitions.

The decision to divide the Department of Publications and Exhibitions into two independent units Mrs. Parkinson said, has been made necessary by the continued increase in both activities and by a growing awareness that it is frequently advantageous for the book program and the exhibitions program to pursue independent courses.

Since Mr. Wheeler became Director of Publications in 1939 and Director of Exhibitions in 1940, the Museum has published over 300 books, concerned with all the visual arts. More than 100 titles are now in print and about a dozen are added each year. Several of them have been translated into Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, and Japanese. Their design and production are supervised by the Museum's own staff, and they are sold at the Museum's bookstore and by mail order, and are distributed to bookstores throughout the country by Doubleday and Company, Inc. Selected new titles are also distributed to almost 40,000 Museum members as a membership privilege.

Mr. Williams has been for five years on the staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where, as Editor of Publications, he was in charge of the publications program, including the Bulletin. Before joining the Metropolitan, Mr. Williams was with the McGraw-Hill Book Company for six years, and then was for a year, Managing Editor of the Dial Press.

He was born in New York City in 1932 and was graduated from Hotchkiss School in 1950. Mr. Williams was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Yale and was graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1954. He lives in Chappaqua, New York, with his wife, the former Marian Ferry, and two children, Julia Ferry and Meredith Mason.

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As Exhibitions Director, Mr. Wheeler has been particularly responsible for major painting and sculpture shows shared with other institutions. In recent years as insurance and transportation costs have increased, more and more large shows are presented and jointly financed by two or three museums in different parts of the country. Mr. Wheeler has also directed many exhibitions, most recently Turner: Imagination and Reality, which he organized with Lawrence Gowing, Keeper of British Paintings at the Tate Gallery in London, and Henri Matisse: 64 Paintings, on view this summer at the Museum. He is also the author of a number of Museum books issued in connection with exhibitions he directed, including: Ignatz Wiemeler: Modern Bookbinder (1935), Modern Painters and Sculptors as Illustrators (1936), Prints of Georges Rouault (1938), Britain at War (1941), Twentieth Century Portraits (1942), Modern Drawings (1944), and Soutine (1950).

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.