

The Museum of Modern Art

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MARGARETA AKERMARK NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM

Margareta Akermark has been named Acting Director of the Department of Film, Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today. The appointment follows the retirement from the Museum of Willard Van Dyke, who was appointed Director in 1965. Ms. Akermark, who first joined the Museum staff in 1941, has been Associate Director of the Department of Film since 1965.

Margareta Akermark was born in Gothenburg, Sweden, and was educated in Sweden, Paris, Brussels and London. She worked as a graphic artist in her native country before coming to the United States in 1940. In 1943, two years after joining the Museum staff, she became Circulation Director of the Department of Film and has continued to direct this aspect of the Museum's film program to the present time. The Museum's circulating film collection has grown with, and helped promote the growth of, the serious study of film in this country during the past few decades. The Museum now provides approximately 3500 institutions per year with some 450 titles including fiction films from many countries and dating from the 1890s, documentary films, experimental films, and educational programs on the art of filmmaking. These films are circulated to colleges, universities, museums, schools and libraries.

Ms. Akermark has also arranged numerous film exhibitions and symposia, among them "Why Experimental Films?" (1952) with Edward Steichen; the "Family of Man" film program (1955), also with Steichen; "Prospects for the Film," a series of symposia co-sponsored by The New York Film Council in 1957; the premiere of Francis Thompson's "N. Y., N. Y." (1958); "Swedish Films: 1909-1957," a three-month program presented in 1962; a series of TV commercials and sponsored films shown in 1966; "Mutoscopes" (1967); and, most recently, "Sixty-Five Years of

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British Cinema" (1971), the most comprehensive series of its kind. In addition she has, since 1966, programmed the weekly "Wednesday at Noon" film series, which presents short films of various genres-- films on art and artists, TV commercials, animated films, documentaries and avant-garde works.

In 1967 and 1968 Ms. Akermark was a member of the screening committee to select films for the Philadelphia International Festival of Short Films co-sponsored by the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is currently Vice-President of The New York Film Council.

Willard Van Dyke distinguished himself as a still photographer and filmmaker prior to his appointment as Director of the Department of Film in November 1965. Among his credits are such noted documentary films as "Valley Town," "The City" and "The Bridge." Upon his retirement from the Museum, Mr. Van Dyke has become Head of the Department of Film at the State University of New York, Purchase College. He will also continue his association with The Museum of Modern Art as Guest Director of a major retrospective of his late friend and colleague, the photographer Edward Weston, to be presented in January 1975.

Mr. Van Dyke has served as President of the Robert Flaherty International Film Seminars, Chairman of the faculty at the first cinema session of the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, and Vice President of the International Federation of Film Archives. In addition he traveled widely in search of new films from many countries around the world and directed numerous film symposia at the Museum, including "Whither Underground?" (1965), a panel discussion on the M. P. A. A. 's film rating system (1972), and, most recently, he co-directed "Open Circuits," an international video conference held at the Museum in January 1974.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7296.