

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

REMARKS BY MR. ROY V. TITUS - OCTOBER 13, 1976

Mayor Beame, Mrs. Rockefeller, Mr. Paley, My Dear Friend Martin Segal....

My wife and I thank you most warmly for your kind comments.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen....

The Museum of Modern Art, now nearly 50 years old, represents the best of what our City has and hopes for in its cultural life. The Museum is creative in its programs, forward-looking in its collections, serves all people and plays a vital role in the economy of our City.

It is an institution cherished not only by New Yorkers, but by people throughout the country and the world. It has had the benefit of remarkable and effective leadership by its Chairman, William Paley; its President, Blanchette Rockefeller; and its Director, Richard Oldenburg. So, if there were no other reasons, these would be sufficient for people to support the Museum.

But my wife Niuta and I feel there is an additional reason - a most specific one. To put it simply, we love our City. Love isn't a word that should be used lightly. It can and must have practical expression. Because The Museum of Modern Art is such an integral part of New York, our gift is for the benefit of both the Museum and the City.

As it happens, my mother was in London when I was born. I came to New York when I was nearly five years old. A few years, I must confess, have passed since then. The years have tightened my bond to New York; they have made New York an essential part of my life.

Like you, I know our City is faced with difficult and complex problems.

It would not be fruitful to dwell on them. It is enough to say they exist and that they are being addressed most energetically by our fine Mayor and others who are here.

(more)

As private citizens, my wife Niuta and I hope to be, and want to be, part of the solution to the City's problems. We believe that support for a great institution like The Museum of Modern Art is a practical solution. John Ruskin in 1870 wrote: "Industry Without Art is Brutality."

New York without Art is unthinkable.

The Museum of Modern Art unites the best of our aspirations with what is most noble about New York. It is a privilege to help out in a time of need -- and through such help, to aid New York as well.

We are honored by this occasion and thank all of you, very much, for being with us.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., NY. Tel. 956-7501