

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART SENDS MODERN AMERICAN ART TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, under the auspices of its International Council, has provided a distinguished selection of modern American painting and sculpture for the Beijing residence of the American Ambassador to The People's Republic of China, the Honorable Winston Lord. Selected by Waldo Rasmussen, director of the Museum's International Program, the collection was sent to Beijing with the financial and technical assistance of the Art In Embassies Program, Office of Foreign Buildings Operations, at the United States Department of State.

Sixteen paintings and three sculptures form the collection, which will be on view at the residence through May 1988. Eleven of the works are from the Museum's collection; the remaining eight have been lent by three private collectors.

The collection includes prime examples of American abstract art, a style that has flourished in this country since 1945 but has rarely been seen in China. Artists whose works are represented are Josef Albers, Milton Avery, John Chamberlain, Friedel Dzubas, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Raoul Hague, Joan Mitchell, Kenneth Noland, Kenzo Okada, Jules Olitski, Tony Smith, Niles Spencer, Theodoros Stamos, Myron Stout, and Bradley Walker Tomlin.

The Museum of Modern Art's International Program is the most extensive of its kind in the world, and the only such program conducted by a privately sponsored museum. Since its founding in 1952 it has circulated more than 170 exhibitions throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, Latin America, and Africa,

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covering all aspects of modern visual art. The International Council, a nonprofit membership corporation of art collectors, patrons, and community leaders, was founded in 1953 to give the International Program at The Museum of Modern Art both national and international cooperation and support. From a small group of sponsors, the Council has grown to an organization of approximately 200 members from more than twenty states and twenty-five foreign countries.

In 1960 the Council formed an Art In Embassies Committee to assemble loan collections of American art for the residences of United States ambassadors abroad. During the years in which the committee was active, from 1960 to 1970, forty collections were assembled in thirty countries, in addition to collections for the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and the headquarters building of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. The program was intended to stimulate the U.S. government to assume responsibility in this field and was discontinued in 1970 as the State Department's program expanded.

The Art In Embassies Program at the U.S. Department of State, inaugurated in 1963, has organized more than 500 exhibitions in U.S. embassy residences abroad. Currently, the program is responsible for circulating approximately 4,000 works of American art in 119 countries. The program is based on cooperation between the U.S. government and the private sector. "Museums, corporate and private collectors, commercial galleries, and artists donate or lend American works of art representing all styles, periods, and media," said Mrs. Lee Kimche McGrath, director of the Art In Embassies Program.

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No. 46

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