

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART RECEIVES GIFT FROM AT&T

\$25,000 Goes to Special Fund Earmarked for Educational Programs to Increase African-American Participation in MoMA

AT&T has made possible a gift of \$25,000 to the Friends of Education Fund at The Museum of Modern Art to increase African-American participation in MoMA.

AT&T's generous donation will enable nearly 2,000 schoolchildren from more than 20 schools in Harlem and other metropolitan areas to participate in special educational programs at the Museum.

"Programs like those sponsored by the Friends of Education can broaden a child's view of the world," said Esther Silver-Parker, AT&T vice president, Eastern Region. "When children are exposed to the arts, they venture far beyond the cities they live in. This is a wonderful way to stimulate their imaginations and prepare them for life's palette of experiences."

AT&T, a longtime corporate member of The Museum of Modern Art, has provided generous support to several Museum programs and exhibitions since 1989, including the company's sponsorship (in honor of 50 years of formal association with the arts) of the exhibition *High and Low: Modern Art and Popular Culture* in 1990.

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In accepting the gift, Akosua Barthwell Evans, Founder and Chairperson of the Friends of Education, said, "On behalf of the Friends of Education I want to thank AT&T for making this generous grant possible. One of the Friends' objectives is to encourage greater participation of the broader community in MoMA. The AT&T grant will enable many schoolchildren and their parents to visit and learn more about the Museum."

The Fund was created by the Friends of Education, which is affiliated with the Museum's Board of Trustees' Committee on Education. The Friends of Education supports educational programs about African-American art and artists, encourages the acquisition of work created by African-Americans, and has played a major role in increasing the involvement of African-Americans in MoMA's projects, programs, and exhibitions.

CONTENT

The paintings made during the 1980s by American artist Willem de Kooning (b. 1904), one of the great painters of this century, constitute a major and largely unknown chapter in his 60-year career. With the exception of a relatively small number of works that were shown in galleries and museums during the past fifteen years, few of the paintings of the artist's final period have been seen by the public. *Willem de Kooning: The Late Paintings, The 1980s*, which finishes its international tour at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, provides the first opportunity to study in depth the artist's last decade of work. "Of these works, a significant number count among the most remarkable paintings by anyone active in the 1980s and among the most distinctive, graceful, and mysterious de Kooning himself ever made," writes Robert Storr in the exhibition catalogue.

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For additional information, contact John Wolfe, Director of Communications, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9747.

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