

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGE

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces the resignation of Elodie Courter, Director of the Department of Circulating Exhibitions, and the appointment of Porter A. McCray as new Director of that Department. Miss Courter, who has headed the Department since its establishment in 1933, has been retained by the Museum as consultant.

Mr. McCray, as former Chief of the Art Section, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and, later, Director of the Inter-American Office of the National Gallery of Art, brings to his new work experience that will aid materially in developing the Department and its activities even beyond its present highly successful state.

In announcing Mr. McCray's appointment, Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions and Publications, said:

"The Department of Circulating Exhibitions has an admirable record of achievement. Under Elodie Courter's guidance it developed, from very modest beginnings, a program of international prestige. It has made it possible for people throughout the United States and many foreign countries to enjoy and to participate in the Museum's program and has helped in the development of standards of taste and knowledge in the arts on a national and international scale. The success of the Department's activities can best be judged by the fact that its example has been widely followed by other institutions throughout the country. In spite of this, the demand on the services of the Department is steadily increasing. Small institutions, unable to afford exhibitions of originals are asking for multiple exhibitions that can be produced at low-unit costs. The Department has recently been called upon to participate in the multiple production of teaching aids.

"Happily, Miss Courter has accepted a part-time position as consultant to the Department, in which her knowledge, experience, and talents will continue to benefit the Museum and the important activities of its Circulating Exhibitions."

In addition to carrying on the many established activities of the Department, Mr. McCray will originate new projects and develop new methods extending the Circulating Exhibitions services of the Museum. Also, because of the ever-broadening scope of subject matter demanded by the public, he will enlarge the Department's traveling exhibition schedule and work out increased means of cooperation with museum experts in various fields.

Porter A. McCray was born, 1908, in Staunton, Virginia. He received his B.A. from the Virginia Military Institute in 1930 and in 1941 his MFA from Yale. From 1930-37 he served as Instructor at the Virginia Military Institute. In 1941 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the Art Section in the office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and in 1942 he was made Chief of the Section, a position he held until 1943 when he was appointed Director of the Inter-American Office of the National Gallery of Art. He served in 1944-46 with the American Field Service in Europe and India. During 1946-47 he was with Harrison and Abramovitz, New York, as architectural designer.

N.Y. Museum of modern art. Press Release