

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

THE LILLIE P. BLISS INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

The Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center was created to make available to students and scholars the Museum's unique resources for research in the modern arts. The establishment of the Study Center, first announced in 1959 and formally dedicated in 1968, was a logical step in the Museum's growth.

The Museum was founded in 1929 to collect and exhibit modern works of painting and sculpture then rarely found in American museums. Public interest was immediate and, in response, the Museum soon extended its collections and programs to include all the visual arts. In addition to Painting and Sculpture, departments of Architecture and Design, Film, Photography, Prints and Drawings were created. A research library was established; circulating exhibitions and international programs were developed.

Through its collections, library, exhibitions and publications the Museum has been influential in establishing the study of modern art as a recognized field of research. At the same time, American universities have expanded their programs of art history to include the study of modern art, which

requires access to the kinds of resources the Museum has amassed. These can be divided into three groups: the works of art themselves; original papers, tapes and films about artists and works of art; and printed records such as books, periodicals and exhibition catalogues. It is rare to find them all housed in one institution.

The Study Center was organized to encourage the broadest possible use of the Museum's unique resources. The collections which were not on view in the galleries or on loan to other institutions, were transferred from relatively inaccessible and scattered dead storage areas into new study rooms. The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room, founded in 1949, was enlarged in 1964 to permit ready access to virtually the entire collection of prints and illustrated books. The Edward Steichen Photography Center was opened in 1964 and has been actively used by students, scholars and artists since that time. In May 1968, with the formal dedication of the Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center, a new area was created for the study of Film, the Library was moved to new and larger quarters, and new study storage areas were built for the departments of Architecture and Design and Painting and Sculpture.

Although the new installations have made most of the works of art accessible, the furniture collection and some large pieces of sculpture must remain in dead storage until more space can be found. The drawing collection, now brought together in new quarters, still lacks sufficient space for both

curatorial work and for visitors to the Center. The Library must be further improved, its collections expanded and more study space made available for research. The present collections of photographic reproductions, slides, microfilms, tapes and video-tapes must undergo comprehensive reorganization in preparation for further enlargement. Most important, the many original papers now housed in various Museum departments which contain valuable information for the history of modern art must be organized and arranged in a central archive. All the resources for study can then be recorded in a catalogue arranged according to a system suitable not only for the Museum but for the many research centers now being planned in museums throughout the world. Eventually, through the use of computers, the Study Center will become a major depository of information on the modern arts.

In addition to making its resources available for study, the International Study Center is developing programs for publications, educational projects and exchange of persons. The Study Center will regularly send a bulletin to universities, colleges, art schools and museums to offer information about its resources and programs and to encourage the interchange of such information about other institutions, and will publish a scholarly journal covering all fields of modern art.

Lectures, symposia and special programs will be sponsored by the Study Center in connection with the Museum's exhibition program and the Center's special resources. Although the Center does not offer courses or grant

degrees, advanced classes from other institutions can make special arrangements to meet in the Center.

Internships will be offered to qualified people all over the world who wish to learn museum techniques or work in specific areas of the Museum's collection. Fellowships will be available for advanced students and scholars who wish to pursue their own research in the Study Center. It is fitting that the first such fellowship should honor the late René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum from 1949 to 1968, who conceived and organized the Center. This fellowship is now offered to younger scholars working on projects related to holdings in the collection, library or archives of the Museum.

The Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center was named after one of the founders of the Museum, a woman of unusual vision about the future, dedicated to extending the understanding of modern art. Research and scholarship made possible by the Center will help further our knowledge, perception and appreciation of the place of modern art in twentieth century life. The creation of a Center bearing her name is thus a reaffirmation by the Museum of Modern Art of its basic commitment to help people enjoy, understand and use the visual arts of our time.

The Lillie P. Bliss

International Study Center

Study and Research Facilities

Library

4th Floor, North Wing

Almost 25,000 books, periodicals and catalogues and more than 100,000 clippings and exhibition notices on every aspect of the modern visual arts, available for reference and research.

Photo and Slide Archives

"S" Floor

100,000 photographs housed in albums and 25,000 slides of paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints in the Museum's collection, including works exhibited, departmental activities (Circulating Exhibitions, Children's Carnivals, etc.), the history of the Museum. Additional files on artists and personalities, movements, works in other collections.

THE DEPARTMENTAL STUDY ROOMS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Architecture and Design

2nd Floor, North Wing

Design objects including mass-produced and handmade utensils, decorative and craft objects, and textiles; the Museum's collection of architectural drawings; and photographic files of all objects in the Architecture and Design collection.

5th Floor, Departmental Offices -- Comprehensive photographic files of several thousand pictures documenting the work of leading architects of the modern movement from the late 19th century to the present, as well as certain historical predecessors.

Drawings and Prints

4th Floor, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room

Limited facilities for viewing the collection of more than 10,000 prints and 850 illustrated books; research and reference facilities include card catalogues and albums of selected photographs of collection.

4th Floor, Drawing Storage--Limited facilities for viewing single examples from some 1,200 drawings, as well as albums of photographs of the complete collection.

Films

4th Floor

Comprehensive collection of stills, documenting the history of film from the silent era to the present. Study room with individual viewing facilities and small projection room with 16mm equipment. These facilities are available to qualified graduate students of the cinema and also to writers working on scholarly projects. 35mm films may be viewed in the larger fourth floor screening room at a special student rate.

Painting and Sculpture

The Museum's collection of paintings and sculptures, from the Impressionists to the present, not on view in the public galleries or on loan to other institutions. Objects are stored on sliding screens, platforms and vitrines for maximum accessibility and may be viewed in a special study room equipped as an exhibition area.

Photography

4th Floor - Edward Steichen Photography Center

Study Room for viewing the collection of approximately 10,000 original photographs. A specialized library of books, research photographs, clippings, exhibition notices, reviews and catalogues covering photography from the late 19th century to the present.