

241

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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The following statement was distributed to the staff of The Museum of Modern Art by David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Board, and William S. Paley, President, today:

"It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation, for personal considerations, of the Director of The Museum of Modern Art, Mr. Bates Lowry.

"In his letter of resignation, Mr. Lowry expressed the highest respect and warmest praise for the staff members with whom he has worked closely since January, 1968, when he joined the Museum as Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture. 'The curatorial and program staff of The Museum of Modern Art is the most dedicated group I have been privileged to work with,' he said. 'Their devotion to an ideal and their determination to achieve this has impressed me on many occasions. I only want to say at this time that it is with deep regret that I have come to believe that I must give up my working relationship with them.'

"In accepting Mr. Lowry's resignation, we want to express, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, our appreciation for the initiative with which he has guided the Museum since he joined the staff. We also want to emphasize that the present direction of the program and policies of the Museum will continue.

"Until a new Director is chosen, administration of the Museum will be assumed by Walter Bareiss, a Trustee and Chairman of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture.

"As you know, Mr. Bareiss has been associated with the Museum since 1951, when he became a member of the Collections Committee. He has also served as Chairman of the Art Lending Service of the Museum and of its Junior Council. He is currently a member also of the Committee on Drawings and Prints and the Finance Committee.

"A graduate of Yale in the class of 1940, Mr. Bareiss is a Trustee of the Associates in Fine Arts of Yale University and Vice President of the Longview Foundation. A resident of Greenwich, Connecticut, he spends part of his time in Europe, where he is Chairman of the Gallery Associates of the Bavarian State Museums in Munich and a member of their Acquisitions Committee for 20th Century Art. He is also Vice Chairman of the Gallery Associates of the State Museum at Stuttgart. A collector since his boyhood, Mr. Bareiss now concentrates on drawings of the 19th and 20th centuries and paintings and sculpture of the 20th century. He also has an extensive collection of early Greek vases.

"Mr. Bareiss, who was born of American parents in Europe, has been an investment analyst for Fahnestock & Co., and is now associated with a family-owned textile business. He was married in 1944 to the former Mary Stimson, and they have a daughter and four sons."

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.