

The Museum of Modern Art

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In the confusion surrounding the program for the development of the Museum's collection of post World War II art, a number of misconceptions have been formed. For the sake of clarity I would like to observe the following:

1) The development of a great collection of post World War II art has been a vision shared by the Museum, many collectors, and the artists themselves. In this collaborative effort the Museum used its limited purchase funds for

a) major works by deceased artists; works that could only be purchased in the art market through the usual channels

b) works by artists not yet represented in the collection

Only a few artists, all of whom were already represented in the Museum collection, were solicited for gifts. My discussions with them related to specific works of special importance which I knew they had retained for themselves and which I thought they might wish to have pass into the collection of the Museum eventually. In all cases the discussion was based upon my choices--made, of course, in consultation with Mr. Agee and other curators on the staff--and was based upon determinations of an esthetic and historical order. Gifts from artists represent only a minority of additions to the collection in connection with this project. Most have come from Trustees and friends of the Museum.

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