

ERRATA

"The New American Painting and Sculpture: The First Generation", now at The Museum of "Modern" Art, is ostensibly an historical survey of the heroic years of Abstract Expressionism. More importantly it is intended to build for The Museum of "Modern" Art the world's major collection of that period. This is being done at the expense of the artists who, in most cases, have been asked to donate major work to this show/collection in order to guarantee themselves a place in history. These works could have been but were not purchased by the Museum when they were relatively undesirable and inexpensive.

If this had been organized as a loan show (i.e. including work borrowed from other private and public collections), the Museum's ability to acquire free art would have been considerably weakened. The artists could still have voluntarily donated works, but their places in this "historical" show and catalogue would have been governed by less arbitrary factors than the current availability of work or the artists' willingness to give major pieces.

As the present exhibition was organized, the Museum purchased one work by those living artists not previously in the collection, but considered necessary to the show. Donations were also solicited from the estates of dead artists. The burden of the exhibition was left, therefore, on those living artists whose work was already represented, often unsatisfactorily, in the Museum's collection. In addition, a larger collection under the Museum's present organization necessitates a larger building program which continues to divert money from acquisitions of contemporary art. This Abstract Expressionist show/collection will provide the prime source of information for students and historians working in this field (a fact specifically mentioned in correspondence from the Museum to participating artists). Thus the request for donations from the artists constitutes a subtle form of blackmail.

In the future other artists will be confronted by similar abuses. This protest is being made by the Art Workers' Coalition, an artists' group concerned with the rights and morality of artists, as a preventative as well as a corrective measure.

ART WORKERS' COALITION

JUNE 15, 1969

Box 553 Old Chelsea Station, New York City 10011

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