

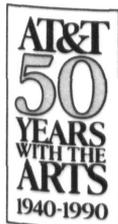
!HIGH & LOW! MODERN ART AND POPULAR CULTURE

220

KIRK VARNEDOE

Kirk Varnedoe, who organized HIGH AND LOW: MODERN ART AND POPULAR CULTURE, assumed the position of director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, in August 1988, after serving as adjunct curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, for the previous three years. Mr. Varnedoe first became affiliated with the Museum in 1984 when he collaborated with William Rubin, then director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, in organizing "PRIMITIVISM" IN 20TH CENTURY ART: AFFINITY OF THE TRIBAL AND THE MODERN. From 1984 to 1988, Mr. Varnedoe was professor of fine arts and, from 1980 to 1984, associate professor, The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; he continues to hold an adjunct teaching post there.

In 1986 Mr. Varnedoe organized the major exhibition, VIENNA 1900: ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN, and wrote the accompanying catalogue. As director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, he initiated the series ARTIST'S CHOICE, in which artists select and install temporary exhibitions of works from the Museum's painting and sculpture collection. The first ARTIST'S CHOICE exhibition was SCOTT BURTON: BURTON ON BRANCUSI (1989); followed by ELLSWORTH KELLY: FRAGMENTATION AND THE SINGLE FORM (1990).



The Museum of Modern Art, New York

October 7, 1990–January 15, 1991

The Art Institute of Chicago

February 23–May 12, 1991

The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

June 23–September 15, 1991

Among the exhibitions Mr. Varnedoe organized for other institutions nationwide are NORTHERN LIGHT: REALISM AND SYMBOLISM IN SCANDINAVIAN PAINTING, 1880-1910 (1982-83), GUSTAVE CAILLEBOTTE: A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION (1976-77), MODERN PORTRAITS: THE SELF AND OTHERS (1976), and RODIN DRAWINGS TRUE AND FALSE, with Albert Elsen (1971-72).

In addition to lecturing around the country on a wide variety of topics, Mr. Varnedoe has authored major publications to accompany his exhibitions and articles appearing in various art journals. In 1984 he received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, which resulted in his book, *A Fine Disregard: What Makes Modern Art Modern*, published by Abrams in spring 1990. Previously he wrote *Gustave Caillebotte*, published by Yale University Press in 1987, and *Northern Light: Nordic Painting at the Turn of the Century*, published by the same press in 1988.

Recently, Mr. Varnedoe was invited to accept the Slade Professorship in Art History at Oxford University, a visiting professorship which will entail a series of public lectures, now tentatively scheduled for 1993.

Born in 1946 in Savannah, Georgia, Mr. Varnedoe graduated from Williams College and received his M.A. (1970) and Ph.D. (1972) degrees in art history from Stanford University.

* * *