

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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JAMES J. SWEENEY APPOINTED HEAD OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

John E. Abbott, Executive Vice-President of the Museum of Modern Art, announces the appointment of James Johnson Sweeney, well-known writer and lecturer on modern art, as Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture. At present Mr. Sweeney is preparing the memorial exhibition and catalog of the works of Piet Mondrian which the Museum will present in collaboration with the Netherland-America Foundation. He will therefore not take up his regular departmental duties until after February 1.

In announcing the appointment, Mr. Abbott said,

"It is gratifying to have so distinguished a scholar as Mr. Sweeney join the staff of the Museum of Modern Art. As Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture he will be responsible for all the Museum's acquisitions and exhibitions in those fields as well as in the graphic arts. In a reorganization of the Department of Painting and Sculpture there has been a considerable revision of duties, making the Department head in the future fully responsible for the activities of the Department during his tenure of office.

"Mr. Sweeney has long been associated with the Museum as a member of its Advisory Committee, and has directed, and written the catalog for, several exhibitions: African Negro Art, Joan Miro and Alexander Calder: Sculpture and Constructions. Mr. Sweeney's work and reputation in modern art and letters will be an important contribution to the Museum."

James Johnson Sweeney was born in Brooklyn May 30, 1900. He received his B.A. from Georgetown University, Georgetown, D. C. From 1922-24 he did graduate work at Jesus College, Cambridge, England, attended the Sorbonne in 1925 and the University of Siena, Italy, in 1926. He is now a resident of New York.

Mr. Sweeney arranged exhibitions of twentieth century painting and sculpture at the University of Chicago in 1933 and 1934; and, at the Museum of Modern Art in 1935, was the director of the exhibition of African Negro Art, in 1941 of the work of Joan Miro and in 1943 of Alexander Calder: Sculpture and Constructions. He was visiting lecturer at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 1935-40. He has lectured at the Museum of Modern Art,

Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Frick Collection, New York, and the Chicago Art Institute, Worcester Museum, Albright Gallery, Buffalo, Cleveland Museum of Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art and City Art Museum, St. Louis, as well as at the Universities of Chicago and Minnesota.

From 1923 to 1932 Mr. Sweeney was a frequent contributor to The Irish Statesman, edited by AE (George Russell) in Dublin. From 1929 to 1934 he contributed articles to the New York Times Sunday art page and during 1932 wrote the weekly New York letter on art for the Chicago Evening Post. Since January 1944 he has been art critic for Partisan Review. He was a frequent contributor to Cahiers d'Art, Paris, between 1932 and 1938.

In addition to the catalog essays for Museum of Modern Art publications, he contributed the introduction for a book on Paul Klee for the Oxford University Press and wrote the introduction and edited Alexander Calder's recent book for children The Three Young Rats. He is also the author of Plastic Redirections in Twentieth Century Painting, 1934. He is now completing for Harcourt, Brace an analytical study of T. S. Eliot's later poems.