Thank you from Glenn D. Lowry

November 2016

Sculptures by Pablo Picasso, rare monotypes by Edgar Degas, cutting-edge photography, a dynamic installation of works from the 1960s, and the 16th edition of our celebrated Young Architects Program were just a few of the exhibitions that brought our galleries to life in 2015–16. Through initiatives like Artists Experiment, Open Art Space for LGBTQ teens, and Prime Time for New Yorkers age 65 and up, and through our online resources and social channels, we encouraged our diverse local and global audiences to discover new art, artists, and ideas.

Our commitment to contemporary art continued with installations by emerging artists such as Neïl Beloufa and Rachel Harrison, immersive works by Bouchra Khalili, Teiji Furuhashi, and Tony Oursler, and a full presentation of Nan Goldin’s famous photographic diary. New commissions by Trajal Harrell, Juliana Huxtable, and Maria Hassabi brought an exciting program of performances to the Museum. MoMA PS1 presented the fourth edition of the Greater New York exhibition series, a solo exhibition of Cao Fei’s multimedia projects, and early works by Vito Acconci, and marked its 40th anniversary with a survey of artists central to the institution’s founding.

Our Department of Film celebrated its 80th anniversary with a survey of Technicolor films, a selection of early Hollywood studio donations to the Museum, and a Robert Zemeckis retrospective, and honored Cate Blanchett at our annual Film Benefit. Today, the collection includes more than 30,000 films from all periods and genres, with an active program of over 1,300 screenings a year.

Through interactive studios, art-making workshops, and gallery activities, we continued to experiment with new ways to encourage hands-on learning and a spirit of conversation and community. We also launched two very popular online courses, Modern Art and Ideas and Seeing Through Photographs, and have now reached nearly 400,000 learners throughout the world in partnership with Coursera.

To celebrate the creative community, we expanded our Artist Membership program to include a wider range of artists, including designers, filmmakers, and photographers, and lowered the cost. We were also delighted to offer free one-year memberships with the 2016 IDNYC program, and have welcomed some 27,000 IDNYC members throughout the five boroughs to MoMA.

Our collection also grew in depth and breadth, from a rare woodcut by Paul Gauguin to experimental furnishings by Eileen Gray to an important assemblage sculpture by Carolee Schneemann. Pivotal pieces like Faith Ringgold’s American People Series #20. Die (1967) and Simone Forti’s Dance Constructions (1961); contemporary works by Ian Cheng, Park McArthur, Wu Tsang, and Kara Walker; and an extraordinary gift of 162 photographs from the collection of Trustee Bob Menschel are just a few of the outstanding additions to our collection this past year.

It’s also an exciting time to look ahead with our building project well underway. On the east end of the Museum, the extension of the Bauhaus staircase and reconfigured exhibition galleries on the third floor are among the many updates planned that will create more space in the Museum for art and for you. We’ll keep you updated on this progress, and in the meantime I thank you for helping us make MoMA an even more welcoming and vibrant place.

I am so proud of all we have accomplished together this year, and I thank you for being a part of our community. Your support is essential to making the art and ideas that we present come to life.

With best wishes for a festive holiday season and a happy new year,

Glenn D. Lowry