

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAFT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART AND THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art recognizes the unique achievements of the Whitney Museum in the field of American painting and sculpture and is fully aware that the Whitney Museum, true to the aims of its founder Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, has established itself as an important forum for American art and American artists. The "Whitney Annuals," with their representative showings of American painting, sculpture, watercolors and drawings, and the work of the Whitney Museum's American Art Council constitute some of the most important activities of their kind in the country.

The Whitney Museum of American Art recognizes the contribution of the Museum of Modern Art to the public's knowledge and appreciation in the field of modern art, including painting and sculpture, architecture, design, photography and the motion picture, and its concern with American art as an important and dynamic factor in this field. The Whitney Museum also recognizes the services the Museum of Modern Art has rendered on a national and international scale through its competitions in various fields and through its circulation of exhibitions and motion pictures.

We, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art, agree to co-operate in the field of contemporary American art in order to establish through our respective efforts broader and more comprehensive programs in this field.

We believe that in as broad and diverse a field as contemporary American art a variety of institutional viewpoints is essential and that the established viewpoints and policies of our two museums must be preserved, but we also believe that we can best serve the public by co-ordinating our activities so as to avoid duplication and wasted effort and so as to use our resources most effectively for the public benefit.

In order to be able to develop the complementary programs of the two institutions so as to cover comprehensively the entire field of modern American art, each of the two museums will make available substantial additional funds for purchases. The Whitney will sell all of the works of art in its collection that antedate the year 1900, using the proceeds to create a fund which will greatly increase its purchasing capacity. The Museum of Modern Art will establish an additional fund for the purchase of modern American art. The two museums feel that this increase in both their purchasing programs will enable them to cover the field comprehensively, but they also wish to emphasize that this plan does not involve a joint program of acquisitions in a field in which complete independence of viewpoint is most important.

Both museums will increase their efforts to cover the whole field of American art by frequent touring of the country to keep in touch with established artists, to search for new talent and to visit the increasing number of important regional shows.

The Museum of Modern Art will make available to the Whitney Museum the services of its Department of Circulating Exhibitions in order to bring their exhibitions, and specifically the "Whitney Annuals," to a nationwide public.

The two institutions will lend freely to each other from their collections and will co-ordinate their exhibition programs, both as to content and dates, to insure that between them there will be on view at all times a large and comprehensive representation of American art. The two museums will also assist each other in matters of research.

A joint committee of staff members of each institution will be appointed to co-ordinate the programs of the two museums.