

The Museum of Modern Art

No. 65

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, July 3, 1968

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Bates Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, effective July 1, announced today that William C. Agee, Kynaston L. McShine, and Margaret Potter, will join the Museum staff in the fall as Associate Curators of Painting and Sculpture. The new appointments are part of a re-organization of the Museum's activities in this field initiated by Mr. Lowry soon after he was named Director-Elect last year, and which he has been carrying out in cooperation with the retiring Director, René d'Harnoncourt, Walter Bareiss, Trustee Chairman of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture; and other staff members.

Formerly the acquiring, exhibiting, and lending of the painting and sculpture collection and the presentation of temporary loan exhibitions of painting and sculpture had been the concern of two separate curatorial departments: the Museum Collections and the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., as Director of the Museum Collections, had exercised general supervision over the collections of all five of the Museum's curatorial departments, but had direct responsibility for the painting and sculpture collection. The Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions was primarily occupied with the organization and presentation of temporary shows of works borrowed from other institutions, private collections, galleries, and artists.

Under the new organization, all activities relating to painting and sculpture are consolidated into a single department headed by Mr. Lowry who assumed its directorship January 1. The initial step in the re-organization, taken last year, was the appointment of William S. Rubin as Curator of Painting and Sculpture, with primary responsibility for recommending acquisitions, as well as documentation research and writing on the subject of the painting and sculpture collection, and the appointment of William S. Lieberman as Curator of Painting and Sculpture, in addition to his position as Director of the Department of Drawings and Prints. Mr. Lieberman joined the Museum staff in 1943 and has directed more than 55 exhibitions of drawings and prints, as well as major retrospectives of painters, including
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Miró, Max Ernst, and Jackson Pollock. At the same time, Dorothy C. Miller, former Curator of Museum Collections, was named Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture.

Mr. Lowry also announced that Jennifer Licht, an Assistant Curator since 1965, has been promoted to Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture.

Two of the three new staff members were formerly associated with The Museum of Modern Art. William C. Agee, 31 years old, was a research assistant in the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions at the Museum in the summer of 1962, and in 1967 organized a travelling show for the Museum on Synchronism. A 1960 graduate of Princeton University, he received the M.A. degree in 1963 from Yale University, where he was also an Instructor in the Department of Art History. From 1964 to 1965, he directed a study for the Archives of American Art on the New Deal and the Arts, and in 1966, he was appointed Associate Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Among the one-man exhibitions he has directed for the Whitney, and for which he wrote the accompanying catalogues, are Conrad Marca-Relli and Donald Judd. He also co-authored, with George Heard Hamilton, a monograph on Raymond Duchamp-Villon on the occasion of an exhibition at M. Knoedler and Co. in 1967. Mr. Agee was born in New York City and is married to the former Elita Taylor.

Kynaston L. McShine was a member of the Department of Circulating Exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art from 1959 until 1965. Among the exhibitions he directed during that period were Josef Albers: Homage to the Square, which toured Latin America and the United States, American Collages, shown at the Museum in 1965 before embarking on a national tour, and Four American Sculptors, which also circulated throughout the United States. Since 1965, Mr. McShine has been Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Jewish Museum, where he has directed numerous major exhibitions, including Primary Structures, Yves Klein, Gene Davis, Robert Irwin, Richard Smith, and Large Scale American Paintings. Born in Trinidad in 1935, he received a B.A. from Dartmouth College in 1958 and pursued graduate studies in art history at the University of Michigan and the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Margaret Potter, Curator of the Gallery of Modern Art in New York since 1959, was graduated from Barnard College and received her M.A. from the Institute of Fine Arts. Among the exhibitions she has directed at the Gallery are The Twenties Revisited, a retrospective show of work of George Bellows, and recent Soviet painting. She was also responsible for a number of other exhibitions shown at the Gallery, including a show of Peruvian gold and exhibitions of two Latin American painters. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Miss Potter also formerly worked for the Metropolitan and Guggenheim museums.

Jennifer Licht, who has been promoted to Associate Curator, was born in London and received Diplomas from the University of Paris, the University of Perugia, and the University of Vienna. Among the exhibitions she has organized for the Museum since joining the staff six years ago are: Bridget Riley: Drawings, British Drawings: The New Generation, and British Artists: 6 Painters/6 Sculptors. These were circulating exhibitions for which she also prepared the catalogues. In addition, Mrs. Licht participated in many phases of the painting and sculpture exhibitions presented at the Museum during this period. She is married to the art historian, Ira Richard Licht.

Present Associate Curators in the Department of Painting and Sculpture are Betsy Jones and Alicia Legg.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.