

The Museum of Modern Art

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No. 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 9, 1970

John Brantley Hightower, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts, has been appointed Director of the Museum of Modern Art, it was announced today by David Rockefeller, Chairman, and William S. Paley, President, of the Museum's Board of Trustees. The appointment will not take effect until May 1, 1970, so that Mr. Hightower can remain in his present position through the New York State Legislative session as Governor Rockefeller has asked for an appropriation of eighteen million dollars for a direct-aid program to the nonprofit cultural institutions in the state, a large increase over previous appropriations.

Mr. Hightower succeeds Bates Lowry, who resigned as Director on May 15, 1969. Since then the Museum has been administered by an Operating Committee, consisting of Walter Bareiss, as Chairman, Wilder Green, Director of the Exhibition Program, and Richard H. Koch, Director of Administration. Mr. Bareiss, a Trustee, will continue to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture and will also become Chairman of the Museum's Program Policy Committee.

Mr. Hightower was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1933. He was graduated from Yale in 1955, following which he served for two years in the U. S. Marine Corps. He spent from 1957 to 1961 in an executive training post at the First National City Bank. In 1961, he went to the American Heritage Publishing Company, as general assistant to the President and Publisher, and in 1963, to the newly formed New York State Council on the Arts. In 1966, he was Chairman of the Special Planning Panel of the North American Assembly of State and Provincial Art Agencies. He was the U. S. Representative to the UNESCO Seminar on the Performing Arts and was cultural advisor to the Presidential Latin American Commission, headed by Governor Rockefeller last summer. Mr.

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Hightower is also a member of the M. I. T. Commission to Survey the Arts, and is a director of the MacDowell Colony.

Mr. Hightower, who is married and has two children, lives in New York City.

In making the announcement, Mr. Paley and Mr. Rockefeller said, "We are delighted at the action of the Board today. Mr. Hightower has the kind of background, skills and insights that the Board is confident will provide the responsible and imaginative leadership the Museum needs to make the most of the vast opportunities that lie ahead. His sympathetic concern about the problems of institutions devoted to the arts and his sense of mission about the vital role that they play in today's society, have already been a source of stimulation to all the arts in New York State, and we look forward eagerly to his association with the Museum."

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