

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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May 5, 1970

John B. Hightower, Director of The Museum of Modern Art
issued the following statement today:

WE PROTEST THE KILLING OF FOUR STUDENTS AT KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY IN OHIO AND THE WOUNDING OF OTHERS. WE
PROTEST SENSELESS REACTION TO DISSENT FROM THOSE FOR
WHOM ORDER IS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN FREE DISCUSSION
AND OPEN DEMONSTRATION.

WE ALSO OPPOSE THE CLOSING OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH
IN SOME WAY NURTURE FREEDOM - SO ESSENTIAL AND FRAGILE
A PART OF THE ARTS - AND WHICH PROVIDE ALL OF US WITH A
FORM OF INTENSELY HUMAN COMMUNICATION. WERE IT TO BE
OTHERWISE, THE ARTS COULD BE USED BY OTHERS LESS WELL-
INTENTIONED TO COMPOUND RATHER THAN DISPEL THE INHUMAN-
ITY THAT SEEMS SO INTENSELY TO PERVADE OUR SOCIETY.
CONSEQUENTLY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART WILL BE OPEN FREE
TO THE PUBLIC TODAY.