

The Museum of Modern Art

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BEARDEN-HUNT GALA AT MODERN

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A gala preview of the collage-paintings of Romare Bearden and the sculpture of Richard Hunt drew a celebrity-starred throng of 2,000 to The Museum of Modern Art Tuesday evening, March 23.

Prior to the invitational preview which began at 8:30 pm, New York's Romare Bearden and Chicago sculptor Richard Hunt were the guests of honor at a dinner party for 250 people in the Museum's Penthouse and Founder's Room. Among those attending the dinner and preview were: Vinnette J. Carroll, Director, Urban Arts Corp; Mrs. Gardner Cowles, wife of Museum Trustee; Henri Ghent, Director of the Community Gallery, The Brooklyn Museum; Carroll Greene, Guest Director for the Bearden exhibition; Miss Nancy Hanks, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; John B. Hightower, Director of The Museum of Modern Art and Mrs. Hightower; Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Hunt, Richard Hunt's parents; William S. Lieberman, Director of the Hunt exhibition; Edward K. Taylor, Director, Harlem Cultural Council; and Betty Blayton Taylor, Executive Director of Harlem's Chidrens' Art Carnival. Among the many artists present were: Benny Andrews, Ernest Crichlow, Jacob Lawrence, Jack Tworkov and William T. Williams.

While guests studied Bearden's collage-paintings depicting life in the rural south and Harlem and viewed the sweeping metal sculptures by Hunt, an N.B.C. news crew filmed the festivities. James Hinton, Harlem resident, filmed the opening for the British Broadcasting Co.

Mrs. Romare Bearden wore a dress designed by Robert Rogers in colors used in her husband's collages. There were flowing evening pajamas, short shorts in suede and satin and beautifully embroidered dashikis.

"Romare Bearden: The Prevalence of Ritual" and "The Sculpture of Richard Hunt" will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art through June 7.

The Richard Hunt exhibition will be shown at The Art Institute of Chicago from August 21 through October 4, 1971. The Chicago exhibition will be sponsored by Johnson Publishing Company, Publishers of Ebony and Jet.

Additional information and photographs available from Joan Wallace, Coordinator of Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7297; -7501.