

The Museum of Modern Art

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158
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SUMMERGARDEN PREVIEWS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

At six pm, Monday, May 10, the massive gates to The Museum of Modern Art Sculpture Garden on West 54th Street will swing open for a two-hour preview of SUMMERGARDEN, a new public park in the heart of mid-town Manhattan which will be open free weekend evenings from May 14 through October 10, from six to 11 pm.

A mandolin player, a flutist and acrobats in costume will provide the entertainment. May wine will be served. Blue, green and yellow balloons and streamers will fly from the Garden walls which will be specially lit so that people strolling through the area will know that SUMMERGARDEN is available as an oasis of trees and sculpture in the city. During the regular SUMMERGARDEN season, there also will be occasional entertainment and light refreshments will be sold in the Garden.

As an added attraction for the preview, a juggler will perform. Other objects in the Garden that move all the time are Robert Breer's Osaka I, a large, white sculpture that "walks" slowly when touched, Claes Oldenburg's giant Ice Bag, which revolves and expands and contracts and Alexander Calder's brightly colored mobile sculpture that sways in the breeze. The fountains in the two reflecting pools will play. Red tulips are in bloom under the grove of birch trees by one of the Garden terraces.

The public and special friends and neighbors of the Museum will be greeted at the preview of SUMMERGARDEN by William S. Paley, Museum President. August Heckscher, Commissioner of Parks, will officially represent Mayor Lindsay. Rawleigh Warner, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Mobil and Herbert Schmertz, Vice President, Public Affairs, will represent Mobil Foundation, Inc., whose grant has made this gift to New York possible. Other invited city officials include Manhattan Borough President, Percy Sutton, Jerome Kretchmer, Environmental Protection Administrator and Donald Elliot, Chairman of the City Planning Commission. The entire Museum staff, artists and people from various parts of the community who know and love the Museum Garden have been invited.

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Mr. Paley cited the grant from Mobil Foundation, Inc., which makes it possible for the Museum to open its Garden free, as a superb example of what cooperation between two private institutions -- the Museum and Mobil Foundation -- can do to create a public service that benefits all New York City's residents and visitors.

Originally designed by Philip C. Johnson in 1953, the Garden is named in honor of one of the Museum's founders, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. Redesigned and enlarged by Mr. Johnson in 1964, the Garden is one of the most famous sculpture courts in the world, and has been photographed and filmed by cameramen from all over the world. The sculptures set between the pools and beds of ivy and among the stands of weeping beeches and poplars constitute a major exhibition, ranging from such famous works as Henry Moore's Family Group and Rodin's famous towering Balzac to very recent experimental works.

Admission to the Museum's Garden is normally only through the entrance to the galleries at 11 West 53rd Street. Fees are \$1.75 for adults except on Mondays when visitors contribute what they wish. During SUMMERGARDEN, admission to the Garden will be free and through the gates on West 54th Street.

Additional information 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. Telephone: (212) 956-7297; -7501.
