

The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 67
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 17, 1972

PRESS PREVIEW:
Wednesday, May 31, 1972
6:00 - 7:00 pm

MOBIL FOUNDATION MAKES POSSIBLE SECOND SEASON OF SUMMERGARDEN AT MODERN MUSEUM

Again this year, thanks to a grant from Mobil Foundation, Inc., The Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden will become a free public park every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from June 2 through October 1. SUMMERGARDEN, initiated last year following a grant from Mobil, attracted more than 50,000 people.

From 6:00 to 11:00 pm on these summer weekends everyone is invited to sit or wander in the Museum's tranquil outdoor Sculpture Garden among its famous sculptures, reflecting pools and fountains, trees and beds of ivy. On some Fridays and Saturdays there will be occasional music and dance performances. The entertainment for these evenings is directed by Ed Bland, who was program director of "Jazz in the Garden" at the Museum from 1968 to 1971* and who selected the entertainment for last year's SUMMERGARDEN. Light refreshments will be available. The entrance to SUMMERGARDEN is through the gates in the high brick walls on 54th Street just west of Fifth Avenue.

Designed by Philip C. Johnson, the Garden is named in honor of one of the Museum's founders, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. The Museum galleries and offices form three sides of the Garden, and an 18-foot wall of grey glazed brick separates it from 54th Street.

When the redesigned Garden opened in 1964, Ada Louise Huxtable, Pulitzer prize-winning architectural critic, said it was successful not only as architecture but as cityscape. "The enlarged Garden, with a series of stepped levels, pools, foun-

(more)

* "Jazz in the Garden" will not be presented this summer.

202

tains and some pretty magnificent, large-scale sculpture is fine esthetically and equally fine as an example of the way expensive midtown land can be 'wasted' by leaving it open for the pleasure of people."

Two years later the Garden was awarded the Bard First Honor Award by the City Club of New York as "a distinguished oasis for pedestrians offering a variety of spaces for the enjoyment of sculpture and just plain walking."

The Museum of Modern Art is open from 11 am to 6 pm Mondays through Saturdays, except Thursdays, when it is open to 9 pm. On Sundays, the galleries are open from noon to 6 pm. Admission to the Museum Galleries, Garden, and daily film showings is \$1.75; Wednesdays, pay-what-you-wish.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7504
