

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that William J. Burback has been appointed his Special Assistant for Education at The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Oldenburg said that the newly-created post was made possible by a grant from the Noble Foundation. Mr. Burback, formerly an Assistant Curator at the Albright-Knox Gallery, is responsible for coordinating and planning the educational activities of the Museum in cooperation with the various curatorial and support departments. Joan Rabenau, a Museum staff member for four years, has been named Administrative Assistant, Education.

Mr. Burback was born in Stockton, California, in 1941 and received his BA and MA degrees in Art from the University of California, Berkeley. He was an Assistant Curator at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo from November 1970 to November 1972. He was also the representative of the New York State Council on the Arts Visual Arts Program for Western New York.

Mr. Burback's varied experience includes teaching studio art classes, work with community centers and with teachers' programs as well as special study at the George Eastman House in Rochester and the Oakland (California) Museum Art Division. For a year (Sept. 1969-Oct. 1970) he was a Curatorial Intern in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art. During that time he became familiar with many aspects of the Museum's program; he directed an exhibition for the Art Lending Service, supervised exhibitions of historical and recent photographs, and directed the innovative show, "One-Eyed Dicks," consisting of film taken to apprehend bank robbers. Among the exhibitions he directed at the Albright-Knox Gallery were a painting and sculpture show called ¿Kid Stuff?, Edward Weston: Photographs, and Working in California.

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"The Museum is extremely grateful to the Noble Foundation for making it possible for us to strengthen our educational services," Mr. Oldenburg said. "For many years our formal education program has been centered around a school for children and adults, a joint program with the Board of Education whereby we prepared exhibitions for circulation throughout the school system, an annual workshop conference for educators, the publication of teaching aids and presentation of special auditorium programs.

"Since the retirement of Victor D'Amico in 1969, we have shifted our own classroom teaching from midtown to Harlem where we sponsor free art classes. We have, of course, continued to provide materials for New York City schools and docent talks for school groups visiting the Museum as well as to issue publications for all grades from pre-school to graduate level which reach an audience outside New York. Lectures and symposiums, usually initiated by the curatorial departments or by the Junior Council, have been presented frequently if not regularly. But we recognize the need now to coordinate these activities and re-appraise them in the light of new educational techniques initiated by the Board of Education itself and by other public and private groups here and in other parts of the country and in consideration of new demands from our public.

"The Noble Foundation grant allows us to begin to do some of these things immediately and will, I hope, put us in a strong position to seek additional funds from other sources as new programs inevitably evolve."

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