

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 144

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 9, 1973

## MUSEUM OF MODERN ART CHAIRMAN URGES

### \$50 MILLION STATE APPROPRIATION FOR THE ARTS

In a statement to the New York State Commission on Cultural Resources, William S. Paley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Museum of Modern Art, today urged that the State's appropriation for the arts be raised to \$50 million, compared to the \$14.5 million appropriated during each of the last two years and \$18 million three years ago. Mr. Paley's statement, which was read by Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of the Museum, said that the record amount was necessary to assure the State's cultural institutions, and the millions of individuals and organizations that use them, "that this State will not stand by and see the collapse or weakening by financial erosion of these institutions that have made New York the foremost center of the arts in the nation."

Pointing out that The Museum of Modern Art had expenses last year, despite the "most stringent economies possible," of \$7,241,300 and income of only \$6,175,500, Mr. Paley said that the resulting deficit of \$1,065,800 had to be met by withdrawal from endowment. He went on to emphasize that this trend of spending capital from endowment had the "gravest implications for the survival of an institution facing annual deficits of more than \$1 million.

Although Mr. Paley noted that corporate contributions to the arts generally had doubled in the last decade, he said that at most they could meet only a fraction of the rising costs of operating the State's cultural institutions and that the day when support could be left to a relatively few individuals was past. "The economic facts of life today," he said, "offer no realistic alternative to government's assuming an increasingly high proportion of the financial responsibility for keeping these institutions going . . . not as an emergency measure but as a continuing obligation."

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