

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

RICHARD E. OLDENBURG TO STEP DOWN AS DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NAMED DIRECTOR EMERITUS, HONORARY TRUSTEE

Thursday, September 9, 1993.....In a meeting on Tuesday of the Trustee Executive Committee of The Museum of Modern Art, Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of the Museum since 1972, announced his intention to step down as Director, effective June 30, 1994, prior to which a search will be conducted to identify his successor. At a special session of the Board of Trustees yesterday afternoon, Mr. Oldenburg was appointed Director Emeritus and elected an Honorary Trustee of The Museum of Modern Art to take effect once his successor is appointed.

Mr. Oldenburg stated, "As we approach a new century, the Museum must look ahead to meeting major challenges which include an ambitious capital campaign and the need to expand the Museum's facilities. Over the summer, I reflected on these and other long-term goals, which will take many years to realize. I have concluded that this is a most appropriate time for the direction of the Museum to be entrusted to new leadership which can both initiate these important plans and see them through to completion.

"It has been an immense privilege to guide this institution for twenty-one years, longer than any of its previous directors," continued Mr. Oldenburg. "I am deeply grateful for the support I have received throughout these years from the Museum's Trustees and from the truly incomparable staff of the Museum. I think I can best repay the confidence expressed in me when I

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was appointed Director before my fortieth birthday by helping now to accomplish the transition to a new generation of leadership."

David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "I know that I speak for all the Trustees when I express my deep regret over Dick's decision to step down as Director. In accepting his resignation, I want to express my very warm appreciation for his outstanding leadership over a long period of sustained growth and accomplishment for the Museum.

"Over the last eighteen months, Dick has been working closely with Trustees and staff members to help the Museum clarify and define its mission for the future so that we can move resolutely forward into the twenty-first century," added Mr. Rockefeller. "In view of Dick's decision and with his full participation, the Trustees in the coming weeks will be actively reexamining the Museum's leadership needs."

Agnes Gund, President of The Museum of Modern Art, stated, "As a Trustee of MoMA for nearly twenty years, I have been keenly aware of Dick's prominence as a leader in the museum world both here and abroad; he is highly respected internationally for his personal qualities and for the success with which he has guided MoMA for so many years. We will miss him greatly when he leaves his active role as Director."

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