

The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NAMES CHIEF CURATOR JOHN ELDERFIELD AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CURATORIAL AFFAIRS

January 3, 1996.....Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today the appointment of John Elderfield to the position of Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, effective January 2, 1996. Mr. Elderfield is taking on this position in addition to his role as Chief Curator at Large and Editor-in-Chief of the Museum's scholarly journal, *Studies in Modern Art*.

Patterned after an academic chairmanship, the post of Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs will rotate every three years among the Museum's Chief Curators. As Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, Mr. Elderfield will be a member of the Museum's senior staff and budget committees and will be responsible for the coordination of curatorial activities. Mr. Lowry stated, "The curators play a pivotal role in shaping the Museum's exhibition, programming, and collection activities. As part of an overall plan to bring more cohesion to all aspects of the Museum's operations, this important position will strengthen the bridge between management and the curatorial staff. Essentially we are extending and formalizing responsibilities that John has already taken on and continuing to build on the creative and productive alliance between the curators and the administration."

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Mr. Elderfield commented, "The Museum is on the threshold of a new era. We are developing new ideas for programming, education, and public service while building upon the traditional strengths of the institution. Purposeful continuity and meaningful change can only be achieved through the strategic coordination of the Museum's departments and curatorial functions."

John Elderfield is a graduate of the University of Leeds and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Courtauld Institute of Art of the University of London. He has been a curator at the Museum for more than twenty years and is internationally recognized as one of the most important scholars in modern art today. Throughout his career at the Museum, he has been active in shaping and building the museum's exhibition strategy. In addition to the responsibilities of his new role, Mr. Elderfield will continue to pursue his scholarly and curatorial projects.

Early in 1996 will appear Mr. Elderfield's *Pleasuring Painting: Matisse's Feminine Representations* (Thames & Hudson) and a revised version of his edition of the dadaist Hugo Ball's diaries, *The Flight Out of Time* (University of California Press). Due this fall is his *The Language of the Body: Drawings by Pierre Paul Prud'hon* (Abrams).

Mr. Elderfield organized the Museum's celebrated exhibition HENRI MATISSE: A RETROSPECTIVE in 1992. He also coorganized, with an international team of curators, the major exhibition PIET MONDRIAN: 1872-1944, currently on view. Other exhibitions he organized at the Museum include MATISSE IN MOROCCO (1990), THE DRAWINGS OF RICHARD DIEBENKORN (1988), MORRIS LOUIS (1986), KURT SCHWITTERS (1985),

CONTRASTS OF FORM (1985), THE DRAWINGS OF HENRI MATISSE (1985), THE MODERN DRAWING (1983), THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH (1979), MATISSE IN THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (1978-79), and THE WILD BEASTS: FAUVISM AND ITS AFFINITIES (1976).

Mr. Elderfield launched *Studies of Modern Art*, the Museum's annual scholarly journal, in 1990 and is the author of numerous exhibition catalogues and publications. He received the 1986 Mitchell Prize for an outstanding publication on twentieth-century art for *Kurt Schwitters*. His other publication credits include *The Cut-Outs of Henri Matisse* and *Frankenthaler*. Mr. Elderfield has also written extensively for many international art journals, on subjects ranging from Cézanne to the American avant-garde.

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