

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November, 1996

JAY A. LEVENSON APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, has announced the appointment of Jay A. Levenson as Director of the International Program. In his new position, Mr. Levenson will develop and oversee exchanges of contemporary art between MoMA and museums around the world.

Since December of 1995, Mr. Levenson has served as Deputy Director for Program Administration at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. His responsibilities there included the overall management of the museum's exhibition program and technological initiatives. He has also worked on major exhibitions for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

"I'm extremely pleased to welcome someone of Jay's experience and stature to The Museum of Modern Art, where he will bring his substantial skills to our International Program," said Mr. Lowry. "One of the Museum's primary missions is to share its resources and encourage the broadest possible understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art with audiences around the world. Jay is the ideal person to help us achieve that goal."

At the Guggenheim, Mr. Levenson most recently coordinated two major exhibition projects: *Africa: The Art of a Continent* earlier this year and, for 1997, *China: 5000*

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Years, a show organized in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Culture that will trace the history of art in China from its neolithic origins to the present day.

"This is a time of great promise for MoMA and I am delighted to be joining its distinguished staff," said Mr. Levenson. "I look forward to working with Glenn Lowry, the staff of the Museum, and the members of the International Council to ensure that the International Program plays an integral role in the evolving vision of the Museum's future."

Mr. Levenson is the third Director of the International Program since its founding in 1952. He succeeds Waldo Rasmussen, who retired, and Porter A. McCray, who was the Program's first Director and served from 1952 until 1961. Most recently, Elizabeth Streibert has been serving as Acting Director.

The International Program was created to develop long-range exchanges of contemporary art with other countries. Since then, more than 250 exhibitions covering all areas of modern art have been circulated within Europe, Asia, Australia, Latin America, and Africa. The Program also organizes exchanges of library materials, educational programs, and publications with museums throughout the world. In 1953, the International Council, a non-profit membership corporation of art collectors, patrons, and community leaders, was founded to provide the International Program with national and international support.

"I'm very excited to welcome Jay as the new Director of the International Program," said Jo Carole Lauder, President of the International Council. "I'm confident

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that he will bring new ideas and projects to the Program while building on the many achievements of Porter McCray, Waldo Rasmussen and Elizabeth Streibert. I look forward to working with him."

Prior to joining the Guggenheim, Mr. Levenson served as managing curator of *Rings*, an exhibition at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta that ran in conjunction with the 1996 Summer Olympics. From 1988 to 1991 he served at the National Gallery of Art as Managing Curator of *Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration* (1991-92). He also organized *The Age of the Baroque in Portugal* and *Giambologna's Cesarini Venus*, both in 1993.

A 1981 graduate of Yale Law School, Mr. Levenson received a Bachelor's Degree in Art History summa cum laude from Yale College in 1970. From 1981 to 1988 he was an Associate at the New York law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, specializing in corporate law in the field of mergers and acquisitions.

He begins his new position at The Museum of Modern Art on November 18.

No. 61

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