

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

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Twenty-four double-faced owls are being strategically placed around the garden restaurant at the Museum of Modern Art in an effort to discourage pigeons from eating the lunches of Museum visitors.

The owls, each 12 inches high, are made of papier mâché. They have glass eyes and are painted brown.

An explanatory label distinguishes between the owls and other three-dimensional objects in the sculpture garden. "The owls are stationed here not because they are esteemed as modern sculpture but in the hope that they will rid the garden of verminous pigeons. Please do not frustrate the owls by feeding the pigeons."

The owls were recommended to the Museum of Modern Art by the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University, Cambridge, where they have been used with good results. They were purchased from the James Bliss Company in Boston. Similar owls are also used at the Logan Airport in an effort to disperse various kinds of birds suspected of interfering with airport operations.

The owls are being mounted on wooden stakes and placed in the myrtle beds by the garden restaurant. Some are also being placed in the trees and near the reflecting pools which attract pigeons.

Lunch and tea are served daily in the garden restaurant which is open to the public. The outdoor dining area opens each year in the spring when tables and umbrellas are placed on the terrace overlooking the sculpture garden.

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