

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

TO: PICTURE DESKS
CITY EDITORS

No. 10
Friday, March 6, 1964

Two rare weeping beech trees, each about 30 feet tall and each weighing in at three to four tons will be hoisted into The Museum of Modern Art sculpture garden on Saturday, March 7. One of the trees, which are known to horticulturists as "sports", will be placed 16 feet above ground on the roof of a new wing now under construction at the east end of the Garden; the other will be planted on a terrace that connects the new wing with the rest of the Garden.

In addition, five white birches also 30 feet tall, will be planted in the western end of the Garden near the Cafe.

The planting is part of the Museum's current building and remodeling program involving the addition of two new wings, the enlargement of the Sculpture Garden and the remodeling of the main building.

Philip Johnson Associates are the architects for the building program; Robert Zion - Harold Breen, Landscape Architectural Consultants.

The weeping beeches will be planted in lead lined holes sunk into the marble surface of the landscaped roof and terrace. Each tree, technically called *fagus sylvatica pendula*, is about 30 years old. They will be hoisted into place by about a dozen men aided by a block and tackle.

Weeping beeches are rare, particularly in this size. Normally beeches do not "weep" and only about 1 in a planting of 1,000 has uncharacteristic drooping branches. The Museum has ~~two~~ other weeping beeches in the Garden.

The Museum galleries closed December 1 in order to complete the expansion program. The Museum school, Art Lending Service, offices and a temporary bookstore remain open during the transition period. The new galleries and other facilities will open in May at the time of the New York World's Fair.

more...

Note: The trees are being brought into New York at 7 a.m., Saturday, March 7. We expect to hoist the large tree to the top of the roof around 11 a.m.

Please call the Museum, CI 5-8900, Information Desk, after 10 a.m. if you want more precise information about the timing of the work. Additional material available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 21 West 53 Street.

Photographers are asked to use the office entrance at 21 West 53 Street. The receptionist there will show them into the Garden.

* * * * *