

The Museum of Modern Art

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A Special Committee on Artists' Relations is being formed by The Museum of Modern Art, Bates Lowry, Director, announced today. The purpose of the Committee is to explore problems concerning the relationships of artists and museums.

The Special Committee will be made up of people whose experience has informed them as to the needs and practices of both the artists and the institutions that bring their work to the public. The Committee will meet regularly to hear all those who want to present their views. A record will be kept, and a report with recommendations will be made public.

"The decision to establish the Committee," Mr. Lowry said, "is the result of the belief we have had for some time, that the whole field of the relations between museums and artists needs to be re-examined. Our interest in this problem was heightened by our recent discussions with a small group of artists who were interested in discovering the Museum's attitude toward a series of questions, some of which were identical with those already under discussion at the Museum."

Among the problems involved are the conditions under which works of art are exhibited; copyright matters; wider opportunities for artists without gallery association to have their works seen by Museum curators; the extension of the Museum's activities outside its own walls; and the economic rights of the artist in his work.

"Some of the problems raised are extremely complicated," Mr. Lowry continued. "Sound and workable solutions to new problems can be found only after the most painstaking inquiry into all views, after all the relevant facts have been presented, and after the most earnest consideration by all those concerned."

Mr. Lowry said that it was the hope and expectation of the Museum that the Committee's inquiry and report will prove helpful to other institutions and artists

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with similar problems. "The world of museums and artists, as all other areas of life, has changed enormously in the last decade," he added. "The changes have, in many instances come so fast that it has sometimes been difficult to act responsibly as soon as they occurred. Certainly there has been a spectacular growth both in museum attendance and in the number of artists who are struggling for a hearing. In establishing the proposed Special Committee on Artists' Relations the Museum is aiming to remain true to its original purpose: to help people enjoy, use, and understand the arts of our time.

Several people are being considered for membership on the Special Committee. "When they have been invited," Mr. Lowry said, "and when they have accepted, their names will be publicly announced, as will the Committee's schedule of sessions and working procedures."

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.