

The Museum of Modern Art

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Richard E. Oldenburg, Acting Director of The Museum of Modern Art for the past six months, has been appointed Director of the Museum, it was announced today by David Rockefeller, Chairman, and William S. Paley, President, of the Museum's Board of Trustees. The appointment will take effect immediately.

Mr. Oldenburg became Acting Director of the Museum in January, 1972, following the resignation of John B. Hightower as Director. Previous to that, Mr. Oldenburg had been Director of Publications at the Museum since 1969. As head of the Museum's Department of Publications, Mr. Oldenburg was responsible for the largest publishing program of any museum in the world. In addition to publishing a large number of books on painting and sculpture, drawings and prints, architecture and design, photography and film, and art education, the Department also produces postcards, posters, reproductions and slides of works in the Museum collection or in its exhibition.

Before coming to The Museum of Modern Art in 1969, Mr. Oldenburg was managing editor of the trade division of the Macmillan Company, with which he had been associated since 1963. Prior to that, he had been manager of the design department at Doubleday & Company, Inc.

Mr. Oldenburg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1933, and came to the United States as a child when his father was in his country's diplomatic service. He received his B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1954, and after a year at the Harvard Law School became assistant to the director of financial aid at Harvard College. He served in the Army from 1956 to 1958. The brother of the artist, Claes Oldenburg, Mr. Oldenburg is married and lives in Manhattan.

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In making the announcement, following a special meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Museum this morning, Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Paley said, "The Board's action today culminates a far-reaching and concentrated search by a special committee over the past five months. The decision to invite Mr. Oldenburg to become Director of the Museum resulted from the remarkable grasp of the Museum's affairs that he has shown as Acting Director, and his very considerable achievements in that post during a time when internal and external pressures have been exceptionally demanding. Mr. Oldenburg has won the confidence and respect of the staff, the Trustees, and many people of the community, and we all look forward to a long and effective relationship."

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7504
