

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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## FIFTEEN MUSEUMS PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM FOR DEAF AND HEARING-IMPAIRED VISITORS

The success of a demonstration project initiated last year by the Education Department of The Museum of Modern Art has paved the way for a new and expanded program for deaf and hearing-impaired Museum visitors, to begin November 1, 1980. For the program, fifteen New York City museums will adapt existing walking tours, workshops, film series and lectures to make them accessible to members of the deaf community. Subtitled silent and foreign films will be emphasized in the project, and certified sign-language interpreters will be present at talks and courses.

Participating organizations include The American Museum of Natural History, Center for Inter-American Relations, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, International Center of Photography, Japan Society, The Jewish Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of the American Indian, The Museum of Modern Art, The New York Botanical Garden, The New York Hall of Science, The New York Zoological Society, South Street Seaport Museum, Studio Museum in Harlem, and Wave Hill Center for Environmental Studies.

Subjects to be covered in the program range from demonstrations in "Lasers" and "Colors in Chemistry" (Hall of Science) to gallery talks on Joseph Cornell (MOMA) to "Signs and Symbols in American Indian Life" which includes a sampling of American Indian Sign Language (Museum of the American Indian). Other fall offerings include dance, based on Japanese

poetry, performed by the National Theater of the Deaf (American Museum of Natural History); a workshop in candle-dipping (Wave Hill); "Images of Disability in Art" (Metropolitan); a tour of the "Viking Ships" exhibition (South Street Seaport); and subtitled films directed by leaders of the Japanese "New Wave" cinema (Japan Society). The calendar of events will be printed monthly in the Silent News and additional copies are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Department of Education, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019.

The program, which will run through June, 1981, has been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. It is coordinated under the supervision of William Burback, Director of the Department of Education at The Museum of Modern Art, with the help of three members of organizations for the deaf: Ann Silver, Book Designer/Illustrator, member of the New York Deaf Cultural Arts Community, and designer of the program logo, which is now being used in museums and theater groups all over the country; Lou Ann Walker, certified interpreter, Metro Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; Dr. Nancy Frishberg, certified interpreter and consultant, sign language and interpreting research. An advisory committee, made up of hearing-impaired and hearing individuals, has also been appointed to work on the project.

For further information, including the calendar of events, contact William J. Burback, Director, Department of Education, (212) 956-4217, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, Department of Public Information, 956-7295.