

NEW PROGRAM AT NEW YORK CITY MUSEUMS MAKES  
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Beginning in April, nineteen New York City museums will offer a new interpretive service for deaf and hearing-impaired people called "Interpreter On Request." Museums participating in this program have agreed to provide without charge a certified sign language interpreter at such events as lectures, workshops, and demonstrations. All requests for interpretation must be made at least one week prior to the event. "Interpreter On Request" is a new service for the hearing-impaired community. It is offered in addition to the existing program of interpreted events presented regularly by New York City museums.

Several guidelines have been established to guarantee the success of the new program. All requests for interpretation must be made at least one week before the event takes place, and must include the date and time of the activity. A request can be placed by calling (voice) or writing to the education department of the museum where the event will occur. A request may also be made by calling The Museum of Modern Art (212) 247-1230 (TTY) and specifying the museum and the event. The Museum of Modern Art will forward the request to the appropriate organization. Museums will provide prompt notification if an interpreter is unavailable. Similarly, museums request 24 hours advance notice if a visitor must cancel an appointment.

The museums participating in the "Interpreter On Request" program are the American Museum of Natural History, The Brooklyn Children's Museum,

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The Brooklyn Museum, The Center for Inter-American Relations, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, The Grey Art Gallery and Study Center of New York University, The Fraunces Tavern Museum, The International Center of Photography, the Japan Society, The Jewish Museum, the Museum of the American Indian, The Museum of Modern Art, The New York Botanical Garden, the New York Zoological Society, The Queens Museum, the South Street Seaport Museum, the Staten Island Children's Museum, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Wave Hill Center for Environmental Studies.

"Interpreter On Request" is a part of an on-going program in New York City designed to make museum activities more accessible to hearing-impaired people. "Interpreter On Request" joins an established series of interpreted lectures, workshops, and other activities that will continue to be offered monthly at the twenty participating museums. For a calendar of scheduled interpreted events, please contact the 504 Program, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.

For further information about the "Interpreter On Request" project, please contact The Department of Education, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.

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For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, or Tamara Real, Assistant Editor, The Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212)-708-9750

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