

# "PRIMITIVISM" IN 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ART

## Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
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No. 31

WILLIAM RUBIN

William Rubin, who organized "PRIMITIVISM" IN 20TH CENTURY ART: Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern, is Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, a position he has held since 1973. Mr. Rubin first joined the Museum staff in 1967 as Curator primarily responsible for acquisitions of painting and sculpture and scholarship associated with the Painting and Sculpture Collection.

Over the years, he has directed a number of highly acclaimed Museum exhibitions, including Cezanne: The Late Work (1977) and Pablo Picasso: A Retrospective (1980), the latter one of the most successful in the Museum's history and one of the greatest ever organized of the seminal modernist's work. Other notable exhibitions directed by Mr. Rubin include: Dada, Surrealism and their Heritage (1968), The New American Painting and Sculpture: The First Generation (1969), and European Master Paintings from Swiss Collections (1976). He has also organized important single artist surveys such as Frank Stella (1972), Anthony Caro (1975), Andre Masson (1976), and Giorgio De Chirico (1982); and has directed exhibitions and written catalogues for works by Picasso (1972) and Miro (1973) in the Museum's Collection.

Born in New York, Mr. Rubin, 57, received his A.B. from Columbia University, studied at the University of Paris, and then received an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in the History of Art from Columbia. He taught for many years simultaneously at Sarah Lawrence College and in the graduate school of the City University of New York. He is presently Adjunct Professor of Art History at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. In addition to his many Museum publications, he has written The Church of Assy and Modern Sacred Art and Dada and Surrealist Art.