

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

## Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern

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No. 32

KIRK VARNEDOE

Kirk Varnedoe, who collaborated with Director William Rubin in organizing "PRIMITIVISM" IN 20TH CENTURY ART: Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern, has been Associate Professor of Fine Arts at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts since 1980. He is a former Assistant Professor of Art History at Columbia University from 1974-80, and has also taught at Stanford University and William College.

In addition to his academic responsibilities, Professor Varnedoe maintains an active schedule directing exhibitions for museums nationwide. He is presently working with curators from the Louvre and the Art Institute of Chicago on a large Gauguin retrospective that will open at the National Gallery in Washington, DC, in 1987. Included among the past exhibitions he has directed are: Northern Light: Realism and Symbolism in Scandinavian, 1880-1910 (1982-83), Gustave Caillebotte: A Retrospective Exhibition (1976-77), Modern Portraits: The Self and Others (1976), and Rodin Drawings True and False, with Albert Elsen (1971-72).

Born in Savannah, Georgia, Professor Varnedoe, 38, received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1972. Among the courses he teaches at New York University are modern painting and sculpture and the history of photography.

Professor Varnedoe has authored major publications to accompany his exhibitions, and he is also a frequent contributor to arts-related journals. He has written three essays, "Gauguin," "Abstract Expressionism," and "Contemporary Explorations," for the book accompanying the "PRIMITIVISM" exhibition.