

The Museum of Modern Art

For immediate release
March 14, 1985

MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW CURATORIAL APPOINTMENTS IN DEPARTMENT OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, today announced two new curatorial appointments in the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture. Linda Shearer will join the staff as a Curator of Painting and Sculpture, and Kirk Varnedoe will be associated with the Department as an Adjunct Curator.

Mrs. Shearer's work will focus on contemporary art, augmenting the curatorial strength of the Department in an area which will have a larger role in its future programs. She will begin immediately to participate informally in program planning. However, due to other commitments, she will not become a full-time member of the staff until the end of this year.

Since 1980, Mrs. Shearer has been the Executive Director of Artists Space in New York, a non-profit organization presenting and supporting new work by emerging artists, and she served previously as Associate Curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. While at the Guggenheim, she curated a number of important early exhibitions of the work of such contemporary artists as Eva Hesse, Brice Marden and Scott Burton. Mrs. Shearer has served on the Visual Artist Organizations panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and is a member of the Battery Park City Fine Arts Committee. She received her undergraduate degree from Sarah Lawrence College and pursued graduate studies at The Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Mr. Varnedoe is currently Professor of Fine Arts at The Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, a position he will retain on a full-time basis.

more/

Through his adjunct appointment, he will participate in the Department's exhibition planning and its acquisitions program and will on occasion direct exhibitions, generally historical in nature.

In Autumn 1984, Mr. Varnedoe co-directed with William Rubin, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, the exhibition "Primitivism" in 20th Century Art: Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern at the Museum. He has also directed major exhibitions elsewhere of the work of Gustave Caillebotte and of Scandinavian painting from the years 1880-1910. Mr. Varnedoe is currently working with curators from The Art Institute of Chicago and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris to organize a retrospective of the work of Paul Gauguin, scheduled to open in 1988 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

Mr. Varnedoe, who has also taught at Stanford and Columbia Universities, graduated from Williams College and received his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in art history from Stanford University. In 1984, he received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

For further information, please contact the Department of Public Information,
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. (212)708-9750
