

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART REOPENS THE EDWARD JOHN NOBLE EDUCATION CENTER

Following a major renovation, the Edward John Noble Education Center of The Museum of Modern Art reopens on April 8, 1987. Located on the Museum's ground floor and overlooking the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, the Education Center's handsome and comfortable space remains the primary reception area for welcoming groups, as well as orienting individual visitors to the Museum. A significant new feature of the facility is its Teaching Information Center, created to disseminate school-related resources and provide aid in curriculum development.

Philip Yenawine, director of the Department of Education, states: "The Education Center provides a focus for the Museum's instructional program, the major goal of which is to make the collection accessible to more people. Surveys show that sixty percent of our visitors want some assistance, usually information about artists and suggestions for how to look at specific works. The Education Center's orientation room, video program, and especially the Teaching Information Center address this desire directly."

The Teaching Information Center provides a unique combination of services. In addition to workshops and art history courses, it offers educators individual consultations with professional staff regarding Museum-related class projects. The Center, with its unusual emphasis on the upper grades, is open to middle and high school teachers of all subjects. It has one of the largest lending libraries in New York City for art-related curriculum resources.

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The Education Center offers audio-visual presentations, orientation talks, video programs, displays, and exhibition brochures to help acquaint groups and individuals with the Museum. Groups can take guided tours or use self-guiding materials offered at the Center to tour the galleries on their own. Programs for the disabled include sign-interpreted gallery talks and lectures, sound-amplified lectures and films, and sculpture touch tours for the blind. The Center also offers a variety of courses and a popular parent-child workshop program.

The reopening of the Edward John Noble Education Center is especially timely, because New York State has recently emphasized the teaching of aesthetics, criticism, and art history within studio art programs. Similar approaches have been pioneered by the Museum's Department of Education beginning in the thirties. Since 1937, the Museum has received funding from the Board of Education, along with a mandate to provide resources for the City's 115 public high schools. In 1977 the program was made available to local independent schools, and in 1984-85 the Museum initiated a pilot program for fifth and sixth graders. Each year 30,000 students and 2,400 teachers participate in the Museum's school programs.

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No. 1

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.