

For Immediate Release
March 1999

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED
WITH FIRST EXHIBITION FROM MoMA ARCHIVES**

70/10: Documenting the Modern
March 10–June 26, 1999

To mark The Museum of Modern Art's seventieth anniversary, the Museum Archives, which is celebrating its own tenth anniversary, has organized the first public exhibition of material from its collection. *70/10: Documenting the Modern*, on view in The Edward John Noble Education Center from March 10 through June 26, presents artifacts connected with the founding of the Museum in 1929, as well as items that document the ways in which MoMA has been an inspiration to artists during its seven decades. The Museum Archives Web subsite, which premieres in April, and related resource and interactive materials complement the exhibition.

The exhibition is organized in two parts. The first is devoted to the founding of the Museum in 1929 and includes such historic objects as the Museum's original charter, the brochure written by founding Director Alfred H. Barr, Jr. to introduce MoMA to the public, the invitation and guest book from the Museum's first exhibition in 1929, and related documents.

The second part illustrates the ways in which The Museum of Modern Art has inspired artists. Artistic responses to MoMA on view include a pencil sketch by Henri Matisse, a silk-screened tie by Pablo Picasso, and handmade Christmas cards by Oskar Kokoschka, all created for and given to Mr. Barr. Audio and video components consist of a recording of an excerpt of Sol Lewitt's Oral History, in which he relates his experience working at one of the Museum's

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reception areas in the 1960s, and video recordings of artists discussing the Museum's collection.

Informational and interactive materials on the Museum Archives and the history of the institution are also available to the public. Examples include a facsimile of the first guest book as well as a guest book in which visitors can register their own attendance at this exhibition. A simulated setting allows visitors to experience how research is conducted in the Museum Archives. An interactive kiosk, tied in to the Museum Archives section of the Museum's Web site will be launched in April. Educational materials include definitions of the elements that constitute an archives, as well as general information on the history of the Museum.

70/10: Documenting the Modern is organized by Michelle Elligott, Interim Manager/Associate Archivist; Claire Dienes, Assistant Archivist/Mellon Fellow; and Michelle Harvey, Project Assistant/Administrative Assistant of the Museum Archives.

The exhibition is dedicated to Rona Roob, former Chief Archivist, who founded the Museum Archives in 1989 to organize, preserve, and make accessible the Museum's historical documents. The Museum Archives contributes to the Museum's overall educational and curatorial mission and seeks to make its holdings and functions more accessible and better known.

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