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Newhall

COPY

George Eastman House, Inc. 900 East Avenue Rochester7, New York

January 19, 1950

Captain Edward Steichen Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd 8t. New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Steichen:

We are gathering together a small exhibition to commemorate the 150th birthday of Fox Talbot. I wonder if we might borrow the calotypes and photoglyphic engravings which Miss Talbot gave to the Museum? If so, would you please send them to me at your earliest convenience as we plan to publish a leaflet and we would like to list these in it.

The month of March now seems like a good time to have the exhibition of photographs from the Museum of Modern Art collection, if this fits in with your plans. We are looking forward to this show.

With all best wishes,

Beaumont Newhall

BN :ac

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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January 23, 1950

Dear Beau:

The Fox Talbot material that you requested is being sent today, air express, special delivery...do hope that it reaches you in time.

Attached is the Museum's receipt for you to sign and return.

Best wishes on your exhibition, and a second a second and a second and a second and a second and a second and

Dee Knapp

Department of Photography

Beaumont Newhall , Curator George Eastman House 900 East Avenue Rochester, New York

DEFECTION TO SEE THE DEED SEE	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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NEWhall

PHOTOGRAPH REQUISITION

PHOTO SALES DEFT.

Data July 6, 1989

Alfred He Barr. Jr.

Marque Collections

Miseum Collections

July 9, 1949

PRINTS

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS

sate our ply

Dear Beaumont:

Many thanks for sending me the Führer zur

Kunst. I am delighted to have it and have made a

photostat of page 44 with Steinlen's Futurist cat.

Determinents I am returning the book to you as you request.

ARTIST OF SUBJECT My best to Nancy. NESATIVE NUMBER

QUANTIT

Sincerely,

1 photostat Steinlen

Natson-Karlinder

Mr. Beaumont Newhall George Eastman House, Inc. 900 East Avenue Rochester 7, New York

AHB: jws

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PHOTOGRAPH REQUISITION

To PHOTO SALES DEPT.	Date July	7 6, 1949
rom Alfred H. Barr, Jr.	Department Museum Collecti	ons
or Museum Collections		
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l photostat Steinlen Katsen-Karikatur		

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE, INC.

900 EAST AVENUE ROCHESTER 7, NEW YORK

A MEMORIAL TO GEORGE EASTMAN TO SHOW THE PROGRESS IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 29, 1949

Mr. Alfred Barr Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Alfred:

. . .

In relation to the futurist paintings in the Italian show you may find plates 22 and 23 of the brockure "Das Bewegungsproblem in der Bildenden Kunst" of interest. I picked up this publication in Tel Aviv. Although not related to the problem, illustration 10 may also be of interest, showing as it does a strong influence of photography. I am sending the brockure to you under separate cover.

It was good seeing you in New York. I hope that the Italian show meets with the success that it deserves.

Yours

4

Beaument

BN:ac

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NEWHALL

Years A7 Francis

By interest in photography began is 1920 when, inspired by the film Verintz

and a book of photographs of America by the architect Srich bendels with I began to photograph as an anather. In 1932 I began to see the seconditions

August 11, 1948

Dear Beaumont:

I am just back from Europe and find on my desk the enclosed postcard which reminds me to write you to congratulate you on your appointment which I heard about just before we sailed from London.

For reasons which you know very well I cannot feel entirely happy that you are now committed to such a permanent and distinguished position, from the point of view of our museum, but now that it has happened I must no longer think of this more remote possibility.

I am just leaving now for Vermont but in the fall when you come to New York I hope you will let me know so that we can lunch together.

My very best to Nancy.

tectors in Muche Island and in Renny-Runsell Mitchcock's W.

contributed a review of the Identical wor

Sincerely yours, et a sent sincerely yours, et a

Mr. Beaumont Newhall Black Mountain College Black Mountain, N. C.

AHB/ob enclosure

Dictated by Mr. Barr but signed in his absence

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

Newhole

12 April 1946

Dear Alfred:

My interest in photography began in 1926 when, inspired by the film Variety and a book of photographs of America by the architect Erich Mendelssohn, I began to photograph as an amateur . In 1932 I began to see the possibilities of combining my photographic and art historical interests, and in August I contributed a review of the historical work Aus der Frühzeit der Photographie to the American Magazine of Art. In 1933 I was asked to write a one-page historical introduction to the catalog of the Second International Salon of Photography at the Pennsylvania Museum of Art. In the spring of 1934 I read a paper at the New York meeting of the College Art Association on Photography and the Artist, in which I discussed the influence and counter-influence of painting and photography. The paper was published in Parnassus (v.6,p.24-25, 28-29, October, 1934). In the same year I wrote an essay outlining an esthetic approach to moving pictures which was published in a magazine of small curculation called The New Frontier. In 1935 the American Magazine of Art carried my reviews of Modern Photography, the Studio annual, and of Ansel Adams's Making a Photograph. During the period 1933-35 I did a certain amount of architectural photography semi-professionally for publication in Antoinette Downing's Architecture in Rhode Island and in Henry-Russell Hitchcock's H. H. Richardson. In November, 1935, I joined the Museum of Modern Art.

Beaument

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Ne++

National Gallery of Art

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alfred H. Barr, Esq. Director of the Museum's Collections Museum of Modern Art New York 19, N. Y.

I AM DIRECTED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE THANKS
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART FOR YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH
HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GALLERY

Assistant Director

Modern Art in Your Life.

"Thaules

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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National Gallery of Art

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Esq., The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York 19, N. Y.

I AM DIRECTED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE THANKS
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART FOR YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH
HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GALLERY

Margill amer Assistant piroctor

The History of Photography from 1839 to the Present Day.

How to Make Modern Jewelry.

Film Notes.

June 21, 1949.

"Thanks

Ne++

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Ne++

National Gallery of Art

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Esq., Director of the Museum Collections, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York 19, N. Y.

I AM DIRECTED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE THANKS
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART FOR YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH
HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GALLERY

Assistant Director

Georges Braque, by Henry R. Hope.

"Thaules

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National Call.

National Gallery of Art

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Esq., Director of the Museum Collections, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York 19, N. Y.

I AM DIRECTED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE THANKS
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART FOR YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH
HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GALLERY

Assistant Director

Paintings, drawings, and prints by Paul Klee

"Thanks

Nett

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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NATIL GALL

Ne++

"Thanks

National Gallery of Art

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y.

I AM DIRECTED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE THANKS
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART FOR YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH
HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PLACED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GALLERY

Assistant Director.

How to Make Pottery and Ceramic Sculpture.

February 9, 1948.

Compl. Bulletin Sent

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Ne++

See PRint Show re "thanks for getting the bulletin out" So promptly"

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Neubeyn



May 18,1944.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Museum of Modern Art New York, 19

Dear Mr. Barr;

Your visit yesterday was indeed a pleasure for us and your opinions of the various pictures were greatly appreciated.

I want you to know that I found your volume "What Is Modern Painting", published by the Museum, so interesting that I have given a copy to most of my friends. The less sophisticated in modern art considered it the most convincing and tolerant treatise that they had read. Those better versed in the field felt that there was plenty for them to learn from it as well.

I hope that I will have the pleasure of seeing you soon again.

Yours sincerely,

Roy R. Neuberger

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200



May 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Neuberger:

How very kind of you to write me so
handsomely about What Is Modern Painting?

I greatly enjoyed seeing your pictures.

My kindest regards to Mrs. Neuberger.

Sincerely,

Mr. Roy R. Neuberger 22 Bast 88 Street New York 28, N. Y.

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new art circle





Most cordially years 18.

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	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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new art circle



41 east 57 / new york

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	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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new art circle



41 east 57 / new york

March 7, 1951

hlumann

ul

Dear Alfred:

J.B. de la Faille is coming to our shores the middle of April and will remain for 2 months. He wishes to give a few lectures on new material on Van Gogh and I wonder if you would be willing to join a small committee of sponsors of which the first one is Duncan Phillips.

The second request would be if the Museum could have him for one or 2 lectures.

I hope to hear from you soon.

I remain,

Most cordially years JB.

me

y

or

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

March 9, 1951

Dear J. B.:

Thank you for your letter of March 7 which I shall pass on to our lecture committee, though I am afraid it is very late to schedule a lecture for this coming season.

for J. B. de la Faille.

I shall explain to our lecture committee that if a lecture can be scheduled here, they must let you know as soon as possible.

It was a pleasure to talk with you the other night about the old days in Berlin and Cologne. I checked again in our library and found that we do have a Sonderbund catalog given us by Eddy Warburg years ago. I was disappointed to see that there were only five Matisses in the show against sixteen Picassos. The chairman of the committee incidentally was Karl Osthaus.

We have decided to buy the Klee and I am asking to have the check made out immediately. It is a most interesting water color with a delightful inscription. Be sure to let me know if any other Klees of special interest come in.

Sincerely,

Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Mr. J. B. Neumann New Art Circle 41 East 57th Street New York, N. Y.

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Neumann

See PRINT EXhib. & Catalog

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Schlemmer fortfolio

+ Print Exhib itself

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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NEW BRITAIN

ART MUSEUM OF THE NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE
56 LEGINGTON STREET
NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT

SANFORD LOW BRECTOR MRS. WILLIAM F. BENTLEY CUSTOBIAN

W. F. REGOES-Quarter for Spinishes 49 Rept William

April 18, 1950

Mr. Alfred H. Barr Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Barr:

Dear Mr. Low: extend to you an invitation the country of the new wing at the New Britain in the museum. I wish I could come but regret that the

collection pressure of work here will make it impossible. I forty year greatly appreciate your having asked me and wish you landscape a most successful occasion.

and in quantity successful occasion.

Sincerely.

We of the Mer Anthein Missian Fool a justifiable price in the Fact that here is him "impresse contar of the world", with its various rackst electron, there exists no art contar, ideally located and as complete in the many phases as to afford a place of culture as well as office recommend adequations for the manerit and enjoyment of our people.

Mr. Sanford Low
Art Museum of the
New Britain Institute
56 Lexington Street
New Britain, Connecticut

AHB: js

Sincerely yours, Low

BE/S

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

ART MUSEUM OF THE NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE 56 LEXINGTON STREET NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT

SANFORD LOW DIRECTOR MRS. WILLIAM E. BENTLEY CUSTODIAN

W. F. BROOKS Chairman Art Committee 48 HIGH STREET

April 8, 1950

Mr. Alfred H. Barr Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Barr:

The Trustees and Director of The Art Museum of the New Britain Institute extend to you an invitation to participate in the opening of the recently completed wing to the Museum's galleries, and to view the collections in their entirety. Preceding the public opening on May 6th, there will be a press preview on Friday, May 5th, when no other visitors will be allowed in the Gallery. Photographs for reproduction will be available.

Beginning about 1908 in a very modest way, the Museum's collections have been constantly augmented until today, more than forty years after, every chronological phase of American art in various media is represented - Colonial portraiture, the early landscape period, genre, romanticism, impressionism, realism and non-objective painting. Qualitatively the collection ranks high and in quantity of exhibits stands in the forefront of museums predominantly American in their permanent collections.

We of the New Britain Museum feel a justifiable pride in the fact that here in the "hardware center of the world", with its various racial elements, there exists an art center, ideally located and so complete in its many phases as to afford a place of culture as well as other educational advantages for the benefit and enjoyment of our people.

It is our earnest hope that you will find it convenient to be with us on this occasion. Trains leave New York, N. Y., N. H. & Hartford R. R., at 10:30 A.M. and 12:30, 1:20, 3:00 and 4:10 P.M. for Berlin, Connecticut, where a bus service at the station will take you the very short distance to New Britain, or arrangements will be made to meet you at Berlin by private auto.

Sincerely yours,

SL/s

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ARTGER

Cata October 10, 1947

You Hiss 时间不是被 Frum Wr. 1 recent a NEWBURGER Dear Mr. Born -Through your kirdness in writing to me. Commington for me, I am happy to say I am now a member of the Woodsworth atherem Itally c'm sure your letter was most instrumental in my getting the job and many thanks to you for it. let the moment I am pench -Sunnington recommending me

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ARTGER

Data October 10, 1947

THERE'S

hitting for Mr. Carmingtons
secretary a close working for
mess Leaver. In availer month
I shall be associated with
miss Leaver only. Ca you
protably Know she is Director of
Education and Pathinty.

Gain led me that you
for your Kind letter.

Liminery,
John Meintinger

June 31 Confield Mrs. How July 8, 1947

You Stee Suning

Francisco, Spirit

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	AHB	I.A.200

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ARPGER

Date October 20, 1947

a magradalish to com

Non The artist Hulebergen

June 3, 1947

Dear Miss Newberger:

I wrote Mr. Cunningham on Friday - longhand so I cannot send you a copy. I hope the letter works. Good luck,

31 Campbrild Ans

Sincerely,

Miss Hanna L. Newburger 31 Campfield Avenue Hartford, Connecticut

There is a countering postion

opin at the radeworth alpeneur

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date_ October 10, 1947

To: Mis		lsbergen
Des pai it hi	14/40 Seel off.	bergen's
fo	24/01/9	tographs
	31 Campfield Are. Hort ford, Comm. 26 May - 1917 Lear Im Bour, There is a secularial posterin open at the Hadeworth athereum that I would like desperately to get. Could I possibly impose upon to write a letter to m. Counnington recommending me	

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date October 10, 1947

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To:	Miss		lsbergen
From	Mr.		
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	pai		though le
	it		ad
	his		
			tographs
	fo		
	7	for the jet. He intermined me the other day and I feel that a letter from your, more than any thing, could help further, my course of Know Low may busy you are and will be ever grateful for whatever you can do for me my congratulations to you on your recent Board. It you on your recent Board. It you on your	
	1	e thill to was about it	

The second second second second	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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NEWMEYER

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date October 10, 1947

To: Miss Newmeyer

From: Mr. Barr

Re:___The artist Hulsbergen

Dear Sarah:

Thank you for letting me see the photographs of Hulsbergen's paintings. I agree with you that they are quite interesting, though it is hard to judge without seeing any of them in color. I read his letter, too, which I think quite touching.

After you are through with them, may we have the photographs for our artists file?

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Newmayer

See also Germany (Gen'l eon)
and Maguzine of Art file - Kokosekka

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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AHB

T. A - 200

THE MUSEUM OF MODER Miss

cc: Miss Betty Chamberlain

Date 1/51/51

Tol alfred Barr

February 2, 1951

From Batty Chamberlain

Dear Alfred,

you mal

New York Post

Dear Mr. Barr

Many thanks for your note.

Although we are able to print only a fraction of the mail we receive, every letter is read by the editors, and we hope you will write us again.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. WECHSLER, Editor.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Director of the Museum Collections

The Editor New York Post 75 West Street New York 6, N. Y.

AHB:mh

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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THE C: Miss Betty Chamberlain

Tor Alfred Barr

February 2, 1951

From Betty Chamberlain

Dear Alfred,

In view of the fact that the trend has been towards climinating art columns around the city, I thought you would be interested in the attached. In you think it might be Dear Siressture of encouragement to drop a brief note of congratulations to the editor? If such were to be done, it would come with mach May I say how delighted I am to see that a but if you approve I would be gian to draft much a note.

you are starting an art column in your weekend edition. This is a most encouraging step in the right direction,

since over the past several years evening papers have cancelled rather than initiated them.

My congratulations,

Sincerely,

Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Director of the Museum Collections

The Editor New York Post 75 West Street New York 6, N. Y.

AHB:mh

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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AHB

T. A - 200

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date 1/31/51

To: Alfred Barr

From: Betty Chamberlain

Re:____

Dear Alfred,

In view of the fact that the trend has been towards eliminating art columns around the city, I thought you would be interested in the attached. Do you think it might be a good gesture of encouragement to drop a brief note of congratulations to the editor? If such were to be done, it would come with much better grace from you than from me, but if you approve I would be glad to draft such a note.

Betty

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M.Y. TIMES

SE FRANKENSTEN

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N. Y. TIMES

SHOUGHTY DA, 1946

low. Alice Longbholm

I wallow PERSONAL Marca will continue to more will January 29, 1948 seriousness as in the past chough they will be handlespeed in maring a litting by the militaries of the press as well as by the fullers of "critics" to balance their expressions

Dear Aline, rejudice with sume attempt at first band objective analysis of the works at ort themselves.

After our conversations I reread your piece "Subject and Subterfuge." I am glad you explained to me under what circumstances the first paragraph happened to be written. I don't want to debate in detail the suggestion that "yesterday's advance guard in painting has been driven back ... ", but I would raise two or three questions of fact about the "defensive warfare" which you describe as being carried on "from the questionable vantage points of a few specialized galleries, a couple of English and American 'little' magazines, and one major museum.

Fage B

"a few specialized galleries": - Looking over the Art Calendar, I would say that the following galleries depend primarlly upon the kind of art broadly considered non-objective or surrealist: Buchholz, Carlebach, Durand-Ruel (living artists), Hugo, Koots, Julien Levy, Matisse, Morlyst, Parsons, Pinacotheca and Willard.

- that the following galleries depend to a considerable extent though not primarily on non-objective and surrealist painting; American-British Art Center, Bignou, Dix, Downtown, Eleemann, Levitt, New Art Circle, Pearls, Bertha Schaefer and Weylie contents, a structure which reached the high point in this country about or four years ago (Structure, Selearte, and many other related painters were in our

- and the following galleries depend to some extent on the above category of art: ACA, Artists Gallery, Knoedler, Passedoit. fresh wave of rennied an-

"a couple of ... 'little' magazines"; I am not quite sure what little magazines are referred to. Do you mean Horison, for instance? Scarcely a little maratine since it is the most important literary review in England. Do you mean the English Arts? In this country I suppose you mean Tigers Eye and View? Or would you also include The Nation, The Magasine of Art and The Partisan Review, all of which customarily show a good deal of sympathetic interest in and serious study of non-objective and surrealist art.

"one major museum": though you say you had in mind Chicago, the phrase "major museum" will doubtless suggest to the minds of most New Yorkers our own institution since our acquisitions were used to illustrate Mr. Devree's article on the previous Sunday. Whatever you meant, I should think that the recent shows or acquisitions of the Chicago Art Institute, the Baltimore Museum, the Whitney Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and the museum at Andover (where Hans Hofmann is currently being shown at length) might increase the number from one to half a dozen.

I gather that you suppose the attacks by New York newspaper critics and such books as The Mona Lisa's Mustache have put the "surrealist and non-objective" painters and those who have shown them some support or understanding on the defensive. Such is the power of the press that this is all too true. But that the fight of the gentlemen and ladies of the press above referred to is won is another question. The artists will have something to say about that.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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T. A - 200

Mrs. Aline Louchheim

Page 2

January 29, 1948

I believe these painters will continue to work with the same enthusiasm and seriousness as in the past though they will be handicapped in making a living by the attacks of the press as well as by the failure of "critics" to balance their expressions of fear or prejudice with some attempt at first hand objective analysis of the works of art themselves.

Sincerely,

The New York Times Times Square

18

January 26, 1948

Mrs. Aline Louchheim 1150 Fifth Avenue New York 28, N. Y.

AHBino

P. S. It is hard to determine because we are so close in time to these painters, but it does seem to me that perhaps it is the neo-romantic school which is the "advance guard" of yesterday, a movement which reached its high point in this country about three or four years ago (Stuempfig, Melcarth and many other related painters were in our Romantic Painting in America show in 1945); whereas it seems to me that the poetic symbolist painting of Stamos, Daziotes, Tobey, Graves, etc., much as it may depend upon such pioneers as Mandinsky, Miro and Masson, is actually a fresh wave of renewed exploration and discovery, newer in time, newer in recognition and certainly newer in the history of art, than the sentimental romanticism of such people as Melcarth and Stuempfig — much as I like the work of the former to be

AHB

Laster Markel Sunday Editor

LManat

Mr. Alfred B. Barr, Jr. The Museum of Nodern Art 11 West Fifty-third Street New York, New York

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection:

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AHB

J. A . 200

M. Y.TIMES

N.Y. TIMES

The New York Times Times Square

18

January 26, 1948

Dear Mr. Barr:

Thank you for your interest in us. I agree with you that the Jeffers' article was a superb job, and we are hoping to have something more from him.

Yours, sincerely,

Lester Markel Sunday Editor

LM:mat

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West Fifty-third Street
New York, New York

"Why

outs the 54th forem in the WHAI'S ON YOUR MENUS

The New York Times

Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY AHB I.A.200

M. Y. TIMES

Who More Back Mance

WHY THE CONFLICT OVER MODERN ART! Studios, 730 gifth Avenue, broadeast from the

The

WHAT'S ON YOUR

The New York Times

January 21, 1948

Dear Mr. Markel:

May I congratulate you on the magnificent article by Robinson Jeffers. I do not entirely agree with his romantic conclusion but it was refreshing and inspiring to find in the Times Magazine an article on the arts so authoritative, eloquent and passionate.

Sincerely,

sphone stry that

er speakers ne speak to very much sain boards.

Mr. Lester Markel, Editor Sunday Magazine New York Times New York, New York

AHBimo

Over.

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N.Y. TIMES

The New York Times

TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LACKAWANNA 4-1000

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
Radio forum conducted by
Iphigene Bettman and Alice Pentlarge

66Why

The

Over

Conflict

Modern

Art ? 39

The New York Times

presents the 94th forum in the series
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
broadcast from the
WQXR Studios, 730 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

1947

"WHY THE CONFLICT OVER MODERN ART?"

TUESDAY, JUNE 10-3:30 to 4:00 P.M.

MARGARET FRENCH CRESSON

Sculptor

Associate, National Academy of Design

FREDERIC WHITAKER

Painter
Associate, National Academy of Design

I. RICE PEREIRA

Abstract Painter Member, Artists Equity

EDWARD ALDEN JEWELL

Art Critic and Editor, The New York Times

Conducted by Alice Pentlarge and Iphigene Bettman WQXR-1560 on your dial

Next Program, June 17th

"IS A DEPRESSION INEVITABLE?"

broadcast from the WQXR STUDIOS 730 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

Moderator

Enclosures

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N.Y. TIMES

The New York Times

TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LACKAWANNA 4-1000

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? Radio forum conducted by Iphigene Bettman and Alice Pentlarge

June 3, 1947

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Barr:

I wanted very much to discuss this program with you, but my repeated efforts to reach you by telephone at the Museum have been unsuccessful and I am sorry that I was out of the office when you called me.

You will find a listing of our topic and our speakers on the enclosed leaflets. If you have a moment to speak to me on the telephone before June 10th, I should very much like to hear from you. We should be very glad if you would care to post any of these leaflets on your bulletin boards.

Cordially yours,

Alice Pentlarge Moderator

AP:ek Enclosures

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date January 15, 1951

To:

Department Heads

From:

Ruth Wallace

Re: NYU SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of scholarships to the Institute of Fine Arts are available to regular Museum employees doing curatorial or related work. The Spring term begins on February 5th, and it is necessary that registration take place the week of January 22nd.

Please make recommendations in the form of a memorandum to me for any one of your staff members who might like to apply for one of these scholarships. All recommendations will be reviewed by the Coordination Committee at their meeting of January 23rd.

COM STATE MATTER AS ASSESSED NAMED IN	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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N.Y. UNIVERSITY

The ATHENAEUM meets

Wednesday, April 25th, at 8:30 P.M. At the Institute of Fine Arts, 17 East 80 St.

Dr. Guido L. Schoenberger of New York University will

speak on: "THE UNICORN DRAWINGS OF LEONARDO"

I do hope you can be present

J. G. Phillips Secretary

Please fill in ballot on attached card.

Smith

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N.Y. UNIVERSITY

(SEE POLLOCK in "P" folder IL Info. about Rob't Smith

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN

December 13, 1950

December 12, 1950

Dear Dean Park:

Museum of Before leaving New York for a few days, Mr. Barr has asked me to confirm to you that he will be glad to come to the doctorate examination to be held on December 20th.

I am exclasion very truly yours, doctors and the large of the Department of this season of the candidate of

Dean Joseph H. Park Graduate School of Arts and Science New York University Washington Square New York 3, New York

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

WASHINGTON SQUARE NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

TELEPHONE: SPRING 7-2000

December 12, 1950

Mr. Alfred H. Barr Museum of Art 11 West 53rd St. New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Barr:

I am enclosing herewith a notice of a final oral examination for the doctorate which has been called at the Institute of Fine Arts at 17 East 80th St. I, myself, as well as the members of the Faculty of the Department of Fine Arts would appreciate your participation in this examination with the hope that, not only will your advice on the candidates qualifications be helpful to the commission, but that the examination may hold some interest for you.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH H. PARK

Dean

RM

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NEW YOR K UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Mr. Barr Date Many IL 1860

December 12, 1950

Re: W.Y.J. Buncherships for

Spring Term beginning Provincy 3

Memorandum to the faculty addressed:

A final oral examination for the doctorate in the Department of Fine Arts has been scheduled as follows:

decision can be made by the Coordination Constitues.

It has been coniced to report the limited content of standardings

THE BEHAVIORY THAT

From SHORELBY'S OFFICE

John Knowlton Wednesday, December 20th at 8:30 P.M. at the to apply for me of these published Institute of Fine Arts

Thesis Title: The Meaning of the Art of Gustave Dore

Commission: The Graduate Faculty of the Graduate Faculty of Fine Arts with Mr. Mayor and Mr. Barr as guest examiners.

> MILDRED R. REEVES Recorder

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Mr. Barr Date January 31, 1949

To: DEPARTMENT HEADS

From: SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Re: N.Y.U. Scholarships for

Spring Term beginning February 9

It has been decided to repeat the limited number of scholarships to the Institute of Fine Arts for the term beginning February 9. Please make recommendations in the form of a memorandum to this office for any one of your staff members who might like to apply for one of these scholarships so that an immediate decision can be made by the Coordination Committee. The date of registration for Museum people granted these scholarships is Thursday, February 3, so an immediate reply to this memorandum is requested.

And bearing a second	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Mu

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date January 22, 1947

To:

Mr. Barr

From:

Mr. Abbott

Re: Scholarships:

Institute of Fine Arts, N.Y.U.

A limited number of tuition scholarships at the Institute of Fine Arts,
New York University for the second term 1946-47, beginning February 5th,
are available to members of the staff of the Museum. Half of the tuition fee is being granted by New York University and half is being paid
by the Museum. Anyone wishing to enroll in one of the lecture courses
offered, will please make application to Mr. Abbott before January 28th.

A copy of the announcement of the lectures may be seen at the Library or in Mr. Abbott's office.

Please inform your staff of this privilege.

direction. with Professor Leleson, I reit that I had not

Mars Enry 19, By T.

in anyway persented him, for we are Cordinly, hearily with an amortional rather than a rational problem.

I did regret very such not having spaces with you having the party afterwards. I thought you, conducted the meeting scaleably.

Sincerely

Professor W. W. S. Cook Institute of Fine Arts New York University 17 East 80th Street New York 21, N. Y.

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11/25/46 NYU

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

17 EAST 80TH STREET NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: BUTTERFIELD 8-2810

November 22, 1946.

Dear Alfred:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 20. I am delighted to hear that your Trustees have agreed to set aside a small fund for scholarships in accordance with the plan we discussed on the telephone, namely that the Museum would pay half the tuition for courses taken by Museum staff members, and that the Institute of Fine Arts will also remit tuition equal to the contribution of the Museum of Modern Art.

Sincerely yours,

Walter W. S. Cook Chairman

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53 Street New York 19, N. Y.

direction.

ing admirably.

in anyony personaded him, for we are Cordially, worthy services executional problems such as reticular problems.

I did regest every wide sen hering spann, dish was here ing the party afternance. Appendix you, come real will hand

Professor W. W. S. Cook Institute of Fine Arts New York University 17 East 80th Street New York 21, N. Y.

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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N.y.J.

November 20, 1946

March 17, 1965

Dear Walter,

I am glad to report to you that our Trustees have agreed to set aside a small fund for scholarships in accordance with the plan we discussed on the phone the other day. That is, that the Museum would pay half the tuition fee of each course taken by a Museum staff member within the limits of the fund, and on condition that you would grant a remission of tuition equal to our contribution.

I hope you will be as pleased as I am with our Trustees' interest in the importance of having our staff members go on with their studies under your direction.

I did regest every with not having spaces with you have

in enjoys personaded him, for we are Cordially, warnly with an amortional rather than a rational process.

Professor W. W. S. Cook Institute of Fine Arts New York University 17 East 80th Street New York 21, N. Y.

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MAN YORK SO, 1945 Trudent Discussed

March 17, 1945

you asked to a question main I must confers to have found rather bestidering. I am atill at a loss to imagine exactly mut may have prompted your remark. But A can't help Dear Miss Look of to be turnesed. So, at the rise of sessing

I am very sorry to say that I cannot remember the remark to which you refer, though the seriousness with which you seem to have taken it troubles me. I assure you that I thought that the whole idea of the evening was excellent and felt only that the shortcomings of one of the speakers and the lack of ventilation were the only things to be .regretted.

After last night's westing at the institute

I gather from your letter that my question had something to do with propaganda for the encouragement of research in contemporary art. So often such arguments are either boring or tend to confirm prejudice. For instance, although I enjoyed arguing with Professor Lehmann, I felt that I had not in anyway persuaded him, for we are dealing primarily with an emotional rather than a rational problem.

I did regret very much not having spoken with you during the party afterwards. I thought you conducted the meeting admirably. that was undertaken, the evening was entirely successful
from the students; point Sincerely, I would like to thank
you again for participating. And I would like to add that
I that great personal planture in the concertanity of meeting
you and hearing your quitribution to the classical larkage

Miss Martha Leeb and had you had a second and had a secon

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48 East 83rd St. New York 28, N.Y. March 15, 1945.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, jr. The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd St. New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Barr,

After last night's meeting at the Institute
you asked me a question which I must confess to have found
rather bewildering. I am still at a loss to imagine exactly
what may have prompted your remark. But I can't help
feeling that it implied a stigma with which Student Club
affairs need not be burdened. So, at the risk of seeming
overly solemn about a perhaps actually minor matter, I
would like to add a fews remarks.

It must be frankly admitted that some Institute evenings are to be labeled "propaganda", and I suppose you may have had these in mind. However, I have never been particularly embarassed by that fact, since I find the cause to be a righteous one. Last night's meeting, on the other hand, was entirely organized and arranged by the students, and thus belongs in a quite separate category. I think the object in view can be placed somewhere between the intention to stimulate new interest in a field that is relatively unexplored by some students, and the desire to meet an already existing interest among students that is not at present satisfied by the regular curriculum at the school. Certainly "the pursuit of knowledge" is not unrelated to such objectives.

I do not want to give the impression of having been embittered by your remark in any sense. I felt that, although certain limitations are implicit in the type of discussion that was undertaken, the evening was entirely successful from the students! point of view. I would like to thank you again for participating. And I would like to add that I took great personal pleasure in the opportunity of meeting you and hearing your contribution to the discussion. Perhaps if I had not been somewhat overwhelmed by the other obligations of a hostess, and had not neglected speaking with you earlier on that account and because you were apparently fully engaged by others, your parting question might not have presented itself as such a surprise. Perhaps, for this reason, too, I have over-interpreted it. If so, my apologies.

Most sincerely,

Mantera Lees

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS
17 EAST 80TH STREET
NEW YORK

N. Y. Chiocoty

TELEPHONE: BUTTERFIELD 8-2810

January 23, 1945.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Museum of Fodern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Barr,

1/24

The Program Committee of the Student Club of the 'nstitute of Fine Arts has been informed by Pr. Goldwater of your willingness to participate in a panel discussion on "Modern Art as Art History" and related subjects. I am writing to express our delight in your acceptance of the Committee's invitation and, for your convenience, to inform you that the discussion will take place on the evening of Wednesday, March the 14th. Before that date, we will communicate to you the exact time at which the meeting will be held.

We anticipate and extremely interesting evening, and will be honoured in your presence.

Sincerely yours,

Man line

Martha Leeb,

President of the Student Club.

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mentiled Fine Night.

1. The existence of the symposium pre-supposes a problem, whether the history of modern art is not essentially different from the history of other art. People who assert this evidently feel that the general characteristics of older periods have received stabilization in our minds, whereas in the study of modern art we are likely to distort our emphases without being able to know it. This is surely true with academic people, who would be quite likely to think of Georgia O'Keefe or Luigi Lucioni as the current Raphael, quite irresponsibly and without being emenable to any revision. (This is flagrant in poetry study, where a line is likely to begin at Chaucer and end at Millay and Musefield.) These same people, studying the eighteenth century, would have enough scattering of precedent to evoid pitfalls; indeed, they might quite reasonably be able to see them for themselves.

This case is merely disreputable, but one might hold that it applies less sharply to the whole situation. Is the avent-garde critic equally absurd in his sulogy of Arp? Uncertainty as to which contemporary artists are good - not just which are the best of all, but whether a given artist is the best or lousy - is a side-issue of romanticism. We find Didorot's admiration for Greuze instructive and deplorable. The Reneissance committed no such error.

So that is a true distinction. But enother approach reaches, perhaps, a different result. We do not think of classic Greece today as Winckelmann thought of it, though his description was definitive for his contemporaries. We may be coming to think less and less of the Reneissance in Burckhardt's way. Then can we say that older periods are stabilized? Only to a limited extent. But to that it might be replied: After a hundred years Burckhardt is still useful, and our view of the Reneissance, where it does not use him, explicitly denies him, so that there is always a general framework. For contemporary art, they would say, there is no framework at all, so that we spend our time groping.

Advocatus diaboli: It is said "We must study modern art primarily, because it deals with our situations and our problems." But is that true; I feel that Shakespeare deals with our problems better than Hemingway, say, though I admire him. (I take this analogy from a more 'Stabilized' discipline, and so try to avoid begging the question.) Would it not be more enriching of our experience to have a thorough understanding of about 20 of the greatest artists then of 20 modern artists, as such? It is the former that can best give us whatever art is supposed to give us. In so international a language as painting, too, time as well is rather slow at erecting barriers. To people today with a medium-intelligent interest, Greco porbably means more than any living artist.

Then too the argument "deals with our situations and problems" would logically make us emphasize American art. But there the absurdity becomes patent. Who really deals with our situation more fruitfully, the foreigner Remoir or the indigenous Glackens? Remoir deals with a foreign situation profoundly; Glackens with a native situation superficially, and there is no question of our choice. But since the basis of the assertion about emphasizing American art is the same as that for modern art, we should throw out both together!

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From this I can happily deduce a more general opinion of my own, which will probably open me to the crossfire of traditional academicians, who deny the propriety of studying the subject at all, and specialists, who think it should be given special importance. It is a moderate view: that twentieth century art is just one more period, and can be dealt with much like the others. It impinges on us, true, but so does Michael Angelo impinge, and as historians we are supposed to be immune to that sort of thing wherever it turns up. It is unsettled, but to the fresh and most valid eye, each period has its own unsettlement.

- 2. Re: modern art and the favorite art-historical view of the development of styles, from 'archaic' to 'classical' to 'baroque' seen in Greek art and in west European art from the Early Renaissance through the Baroque, the development of Cothic, etc. I have heard 'Modern' art compared to the Baroque style of classical art -- while others, I'm sure, would find in modern art the germs of a new style. In how far is it possible to make such comparisons and divisions in a field where there is no perspective of time?
- 3. Also I'd like to hear discussion of the difficulties of dealing arthistorically with artists' sources, when the unity of the modern world makes almost any work of any previous period or from any geographical location available to them form Iberian sculpture and Primitive art to medieval stained glass windows, etc. Also difficulties like Picasso's use of Negro sculpture vs. the other opinion that it was Iberian sculpture, based on the artist's own testimony.
- 4. How much work has been done in the publication of basic "archives" of the nineteenth century: such things as the "Archives of Impressionism" and the records of the National Academy exhibitions?
- 5. Is the problem of evaluation different for modern art than for older periods, or is it only more evident? Or is the history of art only descriptive having nothing to do with evaluation? Must the problem of evaluation be approached differently for modern as opposed to comtemporary art?
- 6. Is the interest or lack of interest on the part of art-historians who are not 'modern' specialists in the art of their own time a purely personal affair, or is it a more generalized symptom, corresponding on the one hand to a condition of taste and on the other to a condition of the history of art?
- 7. At the present time, given the present state of research, is graduate work, is. theses, articles, etc., more or less difficult than work in older periods?

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- 8. How far must the historian of contemporary art be conscious of his own taste so that he may discount it?
- 9. In contemporary and modern art is there any more necessity than in older periods for studying all of the arts together (ie. painting, sculpture, and architecture of a given 5, 10, or 25 years)?
- 10. In the study of contemporary art, what weight is to be given to the artist's own statements?
- 11. Can the usual "art-historical" method be applied to the study of modern art, and if not, why not?
- 12. Out of the mass of "art" produced in the last 50 years, what criteria should be applied to select what is to be studied for instance, in a survey course end in more specialized courses?
- 13. Should we distinguish between "modern" art and contemporary art? Does modern art begin with Rubens, Delacroix, Cezanne or Picasso? (Survey courses in modern art tend to begin too early to include any real analysis of recent developments.)
- 14. Is it possible to study contemporary art from an art-historical point of view?
- 15. Do you think it is desirable now to drop some of the national tags for identification of contemporary painting or painters? e.g., is Picasso Spanish or French -- or just European? Is it perhaps fallacious to give courses in *Modern French painting* when much of it is not French by any real criterion?
- 16. Should the study of modern art be confined to the traditional "architecture, sculpture, and painting," or should such genre as typography, photography, industrial arts, etc., be included?
- 17 How much emphasis should be placed on the following subjects in connection with studying modern art: anthropology economics and politics recent scientific advances (including psychology) philosophy

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Misselve

cc: Mr. Philip Johnson

March 5, 1951

Mr. Rene' d'Harmoncourt

Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Erik Nitsche Appointment

Dear René:

I read with interest about Erik Nitsche's appointment.

May I express the hope that with Mr. Nitsche's guidance we may have more legible posters, signs and so forth. For several years past we have been approaching the eloquent illegibility of the Metropolitan whose posters are so designed that people passing on the Fifth Avenue bus can't read them. It seems to me that our lettering has been getting themmer and thinner, and smaller and smaller.

Yours grouchily,

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

500221 - 13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERIK NITSCHE APPOINTED CONSULTANT FOR DESIGN SURVEY OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art has appointed the well-known designer, Erik Nitsche, as a Consultant for a study of design as applied to its own institutional needs. Mr. Nitsche will make a survey of the Museum's bulletin boards, announcements, posters, etc., in its public places with a view to bringing these displays fully in line with the architecture of the building and will also correlate the Museum's letterheads, circulars and other printed material in layout and typography.

Mr. Nitsche, who won the Art Director's Gold Medal in 1949, has executed covers and illustrations for many of the major magazines in the country; in addition he is known for his posters, book illustrations, package designs and displays. His work has been seen widely of late in his designs and posters for 20th-Century Fox films: "All About Eve," "No Way Out" and "Of Men and Music." He is also at present design consultant for Decca Records, for Squibb & Sons and for several department stores. Examples of his work were included indesign exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in 1947 and 1948.

He was born in Switzerland in 1908. Prior to coming to this country in 1934, Mr. Nitsche worked on many design projects in Paris and was published in most European magazines.

René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, commented in announcing the appointment:

"We are fortunate indeed to have secured the services of Mr. Nitsche, one of the foremost designers of today, as consultant for a study of our institutional design needs. Being keenly aware of the importance of good design in all its applications, the Museum cannot aim at the highest standards in this field without applying them to its own practices. We are confident that the Museum will benefit greatly through the keen and forward-looking judgment and wide experience that Mr. Nitsche will bring to his task."

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NORMAN

See Exhib - Israel (Continporary artists)

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NOGUCHI

MUSEUM OF MODERN THE

Date February 24, 1949

To:

Miss Dudley
co: Mrs. Bragassi
Miss D. Miller

From:

Re Gift of Bust of Lillian

Gish, by Noguchi, to Museum

Dear Dorothy:

Lillian Gish is offering a Noguchi bust of herself to the Museum. It is at the Manhattan Storage Warehouse, on the 7th floor, and Miss Gish requests that we send for it to-Morrow (February 25th). She will be there between 10:15 and 12:00 tomorrow morning and between 1:00 and 4:00 tomorrow afternoon.

Could you please have some one call for it to coincide with those hours? I am not able to reach Arthur Knight, through whom the offer was made, to find out how large and heavy it is, but perhaps you might be able to find out from him in the morning.

> LILLIAN GISH 430 EAST 57

5:15 P.M.

3/21 NOT GIFT AT ALL, WAS ONLY PROPOSED LOAD! RETURNIED

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Norman

see also Stegletz

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NORTON

BRITISH EMBASSY ATHENS

16 10 47

Dear Mr Barr,

Thank you for your kind letter of September 23 and all the enclosures.

I have a brother who is an American citizen so I have sent him my membership form and the lists of books and reproductions that I want and asked him to forward them all with a cheque as American dollars are hard to come by over here!

Yours gratefully

AHB/ob enclosures - 3

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NORTON

September 23, 1947

Dear Ars. Norton:

Of course I remember the bondom Gallery very well indeed, with its interesting shows and excellent publications.

In reply to your inquiry about wuseum color reproductions and publications, two booklets are enclosed. also I understand the following four color reproductions are just now available:

bombois, bef	ore intering the Min	£ \$8.	unframed
D'Aceffe, Can	adian Bern	12.	
Grozco, Zapat	istas	18.	
Picasso, boy	Leading a Horse	18	

I am enclosing a memoership folder too, in case you are interested. The Museum <u>Builetin</u> is sent automatically to members only, other privileges are listed as well.

I am delighted to hear from you, and to know that all goes sell for you.

bincerely,

Mrs. Noël Norton british Esbassy Athens, Greece

AHB/ob enclosures - 3

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BRITISH EMBASSY ATHENS

16 9 47

Dear Mr Barr,

I do not suppose you will remember me but hope that perhaps the name of the London Gallery of Cork Street is not unfamiliar to you.

I started that Gallery a few years before the war, with the backing of Gropius, Moholy Nagy, Herbert Bayer and Herbert Read, Henry Moore, Gideon Welcker etc etc

When my husband was sent to Warsaw as Counsellor to the British Embassy there, I sold the Gallery to Roland Penrose and E L T Mesens who have recently re-opened in Brook Street.

Our idea in starting the London Gallery was to try to develope in London something which might eventually be a parellel to the Modern Museum of Art in New York , Lwhich was the high light on the horizon.

Now i find myself marooned in this lovely land of Greece. Cut off from Paris and London I never come across your publications until they are out of print. I lost all my library and pictures in Warsaw and am beginning to collect a few books and paintings once again. I saw Mr Nierendorf in Berne and he promised to arrange for me to get your publications when he returned to New York but it looks as though he may linger for some time yet in Europe and as I have Ashley Havinden staying with me he advised me to write to you direct to ask what I should do to get them. I can always arrange finance as I have a brother wh who is a naturalised American citizen.

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Not only your publications but also your reproductions I would like to have! I saw some lovely Miro's and Braque at the Burgi's in Switzerland ((he has the important Klee collection)

Please forgive me for troubling you but I really would be most grateful if you would let me know how to get the regular supply of any editions you publish and information as to reproductions you may make.

Yours sincerely

Noëlf Norton