

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES CHIEF CURATORIAL APPOINTMENTS****John Elderfield appointed Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture****Kynaston McShine appointed Chief Curator at Large**

NEW YORK, March 14, 2003—Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, today announced two chief curatorial appointments. John Elderfield was appointed Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, succeeding Kirk Varnedoe. Kynaston McShine was appointed Chief Curator at Large. These are the first of a series of important curatorial appointments to be made as the Museum prepares for the opening of its new building in 2005.

“This is a period of great momentum for the Museum as our new building project enters its final stages of completion and as we re-examine our collection and its relation to the art of our time,” said Mr. Lowry. “I am delighted that John Elderfield, with his wealth of experience and deep commitment to scholarship, will be leading the effort to define our collection in the context of the new building. He is an ideal successor to those who have held this post in the past: Kirk Varnedoe, William S. Rubin, and Alfred H. Barr. I am equally pleased that Kynaston McShine, who has greatly advanced critical thinking about the collection, will also be a key member of the curatorial leadership that will address these challenges.”

Ronald S. Lauder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees said, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I could not be more enthusiastic about these important curatorial appointments. John’s knowledge of the collection and his brilliant exhibition history at the Museum make him the ideal person to lead the department as we enter a new phase in our history. And Kynaston is one of the Museum’s most accomplished curators and is respected in the art world both nationally and abroad.”

John Elderfield, Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture

In his new role, Mr. Elderfield will oversee the painting and sculpture collection, its installation and acquisitions, and its exhibition and loan programs, in addition to assuming administrative responsibilities for the department. Mr. Elderfield, currently Chief Curator at Large and co-organizer of the *Matisse Picasso* exhibition now on view at MoMA QNS, succeeds Kirk Varnedoe, who left the Museum in December 2001.

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“I could not be more delighted at the appointment of John Elderfield to this important post,” said Trustee Leon Black, chairman of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture. “He is internationally recognized for his landmark contributions to the field and is one of the most eminent curators working today.”

“I am honored to accept this position at such a pivotal point in the Museum’s history, as we look forward to a new period of growth and innovation,” said Mr. Elderfield. “It will be an exhilarating challenge to lead the department as we reconsider its exhibition and research programs, its acquisitions, and the installation of its unsurpassed collection in Yoshio Taniguchi’s great new building.”

Mr. Elderfield has been The Museum of Modern Art’s Chief Curator at Large since 1993. During that time he also served as Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs (1996-99), and prior to that as Director of the Department of Drawings (1980-93) and Curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture (1975-93).

In addition to serving as co-curator with Mr. Varnedoe on *Matisse Picasso*, Mr. Elderfield organized the celebrated *Henri Matisse: A Retrospective* (1992). He co-organized *ModernStarts*, the first cycle of **MoMA2000** (2000), and the retrospectives *Bonnard* (1998) and *Piet Mondrian: 1872-1944* (1994). Previously he organized a number of other important exhibitions at the Museum, including: *Matisse in Morocco* (1990); *The Drawings of Richard Diebenkorn* (1988); *Morris Louis* (1986); *Kurt Schwitters* (1985); *Contrasts of Form* (co-curator, 1985); *The Drawings of Henri Matisse* (co-curator, 1985); *The Modern Drawing* (1983); *The Masterworks of Edvard Munch* (1979); *Matisse in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art* (1978-79); and *The Wild Beasts: Fauvism and Its Affinities* (1976). Mr. Elderfield is currently working on an exhibition of masterworks from the Museum’s collection to be shown in Houston and Berlin in 2003-04, and an exhibition on the Venezuelan artist Armando Reverón planned for 2005.

Mr. Elderfield is the author of numerous catalogues and essays. In addition, he has written extensively for many international art journals and has lectured widely at universities and museums in the United States and abroad. He received the first Mitchell Prize in 1985 for an outstanding publication on twentieth-century art for *Kurt Schwitters*. Additionally, he is Editor-in-Chief of *Studies in Modern Art*, the annual scholarly journal of The Museum of Modern Art founded in 1991.

Born in Yorkshire, England in 1943, Mr. Elderfield received B.A. and M. Phil degrees from the University of Leeds and his Ph.D from the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. He held a Harkness Fellowship at Yale University from 1970 to 1972, was a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973, and was Visiting Scholar at the Getty Research Institute in 2001. In 1989 he was created a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French government.

Kynaston McShine, Chief Curator at Large

Mr. McShine, formerly Acting Chief Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, will assume the role of Chief Curator at Large. This new position will allow him to devote more of his time to special projects, including the organization of exhibitions as well as serving as advisor on other general museum programs.

Mr. McShine served as Senior Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture from 1980 until 2001 when he took over as Acting Chief Curator of the department. He has been integrally involved with every aspect of the department's activities with respect to the permanent collection and acquisitions. In 1971, he initiated the innovative **Projects** series, devoted to experimental work by younger artists. He has also organized numerous key installations and exhibitions, including the installation of the permanent collection at MoMA QNS, the Museum's temporary home in Long Island City, Queens, which opened to the public last June, and *Sculpture from The Museum of Modern Art at the New York Botanical Garden*. The previous year he organized the installation *Masterworks from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1900-1955* for the Ueno Royal Museum in Tokyo, Japan. Some of the notable exhibitions he has organized for the Museum include *The Museum as Muse, Artists Reflect* (1999); *Andy Warhol: A Retrospective* (1989); *Berlinart 1961-1987* (1987); *An International Survey of Painting and Sculpture* (1984); *Joseph Cornell* (1980); *Robert Rauschenberg* (1977); *Information* (1970); *Marcel Duchamp* (1973); and *The Natural Paradise: Painting in America 1800-1950* (1976).

Mr. McShine joined The Museum of Modern Art in 1959 as an Exhibition Assistant in the International Program. In 1965 he joined the Jewish Museum as Curator and then went on to serve as Acting Director in 1967. While there, among other exhibitions he organized were *Primary Structures* (1966) and *Yves Klein* (1967). He returned to The Museum of Modern Art in 1968 as Associate Curator, Painting and Sculpture, becoming a full Curator in 1971 and Senior Curator in 1980. Mr. McShine has also been involved in the work of the International Council, the International Program, and other key Museum departments.

Born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies, Mr. McShine received his A.B. degree in Philosophy from Dartmouth College and did graduate work at the University of Michigan and the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

Mr. McShine has lectured and participated in many symposia both nationally and internationally. He has served on the boards of several arts organizations, including the American Federation of Arts, Artists Space, Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Alliance for the Arts, and as an overseer of the Hopkins Center and Hood Museum of Art. He is currently on the board of the American Center Foundation and is a voluntary consultant to several museums abroad.

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