

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****The Museum of Modern Art**For Immediate Release  
December 29, 2000**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES IMPORTANT LARGE-SCALE  
DE KOONING DRAWING FROM THE 1960s****Acquisition Strengthens MoMA's Postwar Drawings Collection**

New York, December 29, 2000 - MoMA Director Glenn D. Lowry announced today that The Museum of Modern Art has acquired a key charcoal drawing by Willem de Kooning, one of the master draftsmen of the 20th century. The charcoal on vellum titled *Woman* (1965), exceptional in its large scale and iconic in its subject matter, joins eight drawings by de Kooning in the MoMA collection, and bolsters the Museum's postwar holdings.

*Woman* is among a group of large-scale paintings and drawings called the "door" series from 1964-66, so named because of de Kooning's adaptation of rejected studio doors as the template on which he worked. Executed on slick, resin-coated vellum in a playful, sinuous line that hovers between drawing and painting, *Woman* shows a partially clothed female figure with her hand across her face, seated on a couch, surrounded by articles of clothing. The work re-engages the central subject of de Kooning's noted series of women - done between 1950 and 1955 - but departs from the fierce, threatening quality found in those works in favor of looser, more sensual and playful depiction. The drawing demonstrates the artist's versatile mastery of charcoal. In scale and richness of execution, it is commensurate with paintings of the period.

Mr. Lowry states, "We are delighted to add this extremely important drawing of de Kooning's to our already strong collection of the artist's work. De Kooning is central to our understanding of modern art, and this landmark drawing builds on our commitment to strengthening the post-war segment of our collection."

Gary Garrels, Chief Curator of the Department of Drawings and Curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, notes, "Drawing is at the core of de Kooning's achievement, and this work has long been admired as one of the touchstone drawings by the artist. It has the immediacy and directness of the best drawings, with the power and presence of a great painting. As the first major acquisition in which I have been involved at MoMA, it sets a standard to which I can aspire as we continue to build this great collection."

*Woman* was previously exhibited as one of the key drawings in the retrospective *Willem de Kooning* at MoMA in 1968, and in the exhibition *Willem de Kooning: Drawings, Paintings, Sculpture* at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1984. The year after it was finished, it was purchased by Kimiko and John Powers, legendary collectors, who held the work until its recent purchase by MoMA. The eight de Kooning drawings in the MoMA collection range in date from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s. The Museum

also holds eight paintings, some 20 prints and illustrated books, and a poster by the artist.

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