MoMA Trustees Vote Unanimously to Recognize His Extraordinary Generosity by Establishing The David Rockefeller Director of The Museum of Modern Art

NEW YORK, February 5, 2019—The Museum of Modern Art announced today that it has received more than $200 million of unrestricted funds from the estate of David Rockefeller. This gift joins his record-breaking pledge of $100 million in 2005, bringing the total lifetime giving to over $300 million.

This contribution complements the numerous masterworks of modern painting, drawings, and prints Mr. Rockefeller and his wife Peggy gave to the Museum throughout their lifetime, through donations, promised gifts, and funds for purchase. Highlights include paintings by Pierre Bonnard, Georges Braque, Paul Cezanne, André Derain, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Signac, as well as works of Latin American and contemporary American art. Works from the Rockefeller collection, including many promised gifts, were exhibited in the 1994 exhibition Masterpieces from the David and Peggy Rockefeller Collection: Manet to Picasso and in the summer of 2017 in the Museum’s fifth-floor collection galleries.

Inspired by Mr. Rockefeller’s truly exceptional generosity, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the Museum’s directorship in recognition of his legacy of support.

“It is my great honor to serve as the first David Rockefeller Director of The Museum of Modern Art,” said Glenn D. Lowry. “As we look ahead to our exciting future and the opening of the new MoMA in October 2019, it’s an energizing and fitting tribute to celebrate David’s vision and passion for the Museum’s mission and its collection.”

Following in his family’s tradition of arts patronage, David Rockefeller, who was elected to the Museum’s Board of Trustees in 1948, served as the Honorary Chairman until 2017, Chairman from 1987 to 1993 and from 1962 to 1972, Vice Chairman from 1972 to 1987, and Chairman (pro tem) from 1958 to 1959. Mr. Rockefeller initiated the movement in American business to create corporate art collections through the formation of the Chase Manhattan art program, one of the first of its kind in the United States.

“My father’s love of modern and contemporary art deeply enriched our family’s life, and the lives of countless others through his passionate support of the Museum,” said David Rockefeller Jr. “There could be no better person to carry this new title first than Glenn Lowry, who has always shared Dad’s same forward-thinking vision and passion.”
Mr. Rockefeller was also Chairman of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a grant-making organization founded in 1940, from 1980 to 1987, and Chairman of the Board of The Rockefeller University, New York, from 1950 to 1975. Born in 1915 in New York City, David Rockefeller was the youngest son of John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, a founder of The Museum of Modern Art.

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