

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WILLIAM C. SEITZ APPOINTED KRESS PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL GALLERY FOR 1971/1972

William C. Seitz, an internationally recognized authority on contemporary art, has been named Samuel H. Kress Professor at the National Gallery of Art for 1971/72. Dr. Seitz's appointment as Kress Professor is the first time the prominent position, annually given to a distinguished art historian, has been occupied by a scholar working in the modern field.

In announcing Dr. Seitz's appointment, J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, also announced seven new Gallery fellowship awards. Annual candidates for the Gallery's fellowships are reviewed by a committee, under the directorship of the Kress Professor of the previous year; this new group, therefore, was considered with the consultation of Wolfgang Stechow, Professor Emeritus of Oberlin University and Kress Professor in Residence for 1970/71.

Dr. Seitz is the former curator of exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and director of the Rose Art Museum and Poses Institute of Fine Arts of Brandeis University and was recently appointed William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of History of Art at the University of Virginia. He has been the organizer

(more)

WILLIAM C. SEITZ APPOINTED KRESS PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL GALLERY  
FOR 1971/1972 - 2

of some of the most significant exhibitions of contemporary work in the last decade. While at the Museum of Modern Art, he organized "Claude Monet, Series and Moments" (1960), "The Art of Assemblage" (1961), "The Responsive Eye" (1965), and one-man exhibitions of Arshile Gorky, Mark Tobey, and Hans Hofmann, among others. His catalogs for "The Art of Assemblage" and "The Responsive Eye" are definitive statements to date on the art of collage and "Op" art, respectively.

Dr. Seitz, born in Buffalo, New York, in 1914, earned his BFA degree from the University of Buffalo in 1946 and taught there from 1945 to 1949. He taught at Princeton from 1952 to 1960 while getting his MFA and Ph.D. degrees there. Before 1956 he was active as a painter and exhibited widely.

He is the author of numerous other books and catalogs, including Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec: At the Circus (1967); Art Israel (1964); Hans Hofmann (1963); Arshile Gorky (1962); Mark Tobey (1962); and a major monograph on Claude Monet (1960). Dr. Seitz's future publications include a book on modernist art since 1955 and a monograph on J.M.W. Turner. He has also been published widely in both domestic and foreign periodicals, including Art Forum, the College Art Journal, Vogue, and Art International.

The Kress Professorship, established in 1965, is supported by a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The appointment is made for one academic year. During that time, the

(more)

WILLIAM C. SEITZ APPOINTED KRESS PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL GALLERY  
FOR 1971/1972 - 3

Kress Professor works on projects of his choosing, advises the Gallery on acquisitions and other curatorial activities, and serves as a counselor on the Gallery's fellowship program and to the Fellows in residence.

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For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, or Diane Nesley, Public Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, Area Code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.