

Daniels, Maygene F.  
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September 28, 1993

Memorandum to Staff

Subject: Appointment of Deputy Director

It is with pleasure that I announce that Mr. Alan Shestack, currently the Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, will assume the position of Deputy Director at the National Gallery of Art. Mr. Shestack has had a distinguished career in museums, having been Director of the Yale University Art Gallery from 1973 to 1985, then Director of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from 1985 to 1987, and Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston from 1985 to the present. He is a specialist in European and Old Master prints and paintings and has published widely in his field.

I am especially pleased to welcome Mr. Shestack back to the Gallery as his first position in the museum profession was as head of the Graphic Arts department at the Gallery, where he presided from 1965 to 1968. He will begin by the first of January.



Earl A. Powell III

cc: Board of Trustees

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ALAN SHESTACK NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D.C., September 28, 1993 -- Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery of Art, today announced the appointment of Alan Shestack as deputy director of the National Gallery. Mr. Shestack is director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He will move to Washington in December to succeed Roger Mandle who left recently to become president of the Rhode Island School of Design.

Mr. Shestack has been director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts since 1987. Previously, he was director of the Minneapolis Institute of Art (1985-87) and, for fourteen years, director of the Yale University Art Gallery (1971-1985). Earlier in his career, he served as curator of graphic art at the National Gallery.

"Alan is one of the most admired museum professionals in the country," said Rusty Powell, the Gallery's director. "With his wealth of experience in museum management,

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combined with his outstanding academic achievement and curatorial expertise, he is exceptionally well prepared for the challenges this role presents."

During his tenure as director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Mr. Shestack has overseen several major exhibitions, including Monet in the 90's, which was the most heavily attended exhibition in the history of the museum, and the current show, The Age of Rubens. The museum has also been greatly enriched during Mr. Shestack's tenure by the gift of the Lane Collection of American Early Modernist Paintings, the William Coolidge Collection of Old Master Paintings, and the Firestone Collection of French Silver.

His fourteen years as director of the Yale University Art Gallery were also marked by significant improvements in the permanent collection, scholarly catalogues of the museum's holdings, and a long series of distinguished exhibitions.

In addition to his notable record as a museum administrator, Mr. Shestack has been a leader in the national museum community. He played an active role in the Association of Art Museum Directors between 1977 and 1984, serving as president in 1983-84; he was a member of the museum panel of the National Endowment for the Arts from

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1974 to 1977, and of the advisory committee of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art from 1984 to 1986. He currently serves on the visiting committees of the Harvard University Art Museums, and of the Department of Prints at the Museum of Modern Art.

Born in New York City in 1938, Mr. Shestack was graduated with honors from Wesleyan University and received an M.A. from Harvard University. Between 1963 and 1965 he was a David E. Finley Fellow of the National Gallery of Art, studying at the Central Institute of Art History in Munich and the Courtauld Institute of the University of London.

Previous to his appointment as director of the Yale University Art Gallery in 1971, Mr. Shestack was curator of the Lessing Rosenwald Collection, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania (simultaneous with his curatorship at the National Gallery of Art), and curator of prints and drawings at the Yale University Art Gallery.

Mr. Shestack's special area of expertise is German and Netherlandish art of the Reformation era, with an emphasis on prints and drawings; he has published widely on the pre-Dürer engravers, Master E.S., and Martin Schongauer. His scholarly writings include Fifteenth Century Engravings of Northern Europe (National Gallery of Art, 1968), and Hans

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Baldung Grien: Prints and Drawings, with co-author James Marrow (National Gallery of Art and Yale Art Gallery, 1981), which won the Art Library Society award for best scholarly art book of 1981. Mr. Shestack has also lectured frequently in his field of study and on issues affecting art museums nationwide.

Mr. Shestack is married to the former Nancy Jane Davidson of St. Louis, an immigration attorney.

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