

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

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### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART NAMES MARLA PRATHER

### HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR TWENTIETH-CENTURY ART

Washington, D.C. -- National Gallery of Art director Earl A. Powell III has announced the appointment of Marla Prather as head of the department of twentieth-century art. She replaces Mark Rosenthal, who will return to his work as a freelance curator.

"Marla's familiarity with our collection of twentieth-century art will be a great asset in her new position," said Powell.

Prather has been at the National Gallery since 1986, and has worked in curatorial positions in the department of twentieth-century art since 1989. She is currently organizing two exhibitions for the National Gallery: an Alexander Calder retrospective, scheduled for 1998, and a focus exhibition on the theme of the Tahitian Eve in the art of Paul Gauguin, scheduled for 1999. She is also revising H. H. Arnason's History of Modern Art for Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

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prather...page two

Prather was curator for the Gallery exhibitions Claes Oldenburg: An Anthology (1995) and Willem de Kooning: Paintings (1994). She has been a contributing author for a number of publications, including such recent exhibition catalogues as The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection: 1945-1995, Willem de Kooning: Paintings, and Great French Paintings from the Barnes Foundation, and has lectured on the art of Wayne Thiebaud, de Kooning, Oldenburg, and other artists.

Prather is a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University in New York and has M.A. and B.A. degrees from the University of Kansas. She also studied at the University of Bordeaux, France.

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