

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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"MODERN BIBLE ILLUSTRATION" TO BE EXHIBITED AT MUSEUM

Original prints in color and in black and white will offer a survey of visual renderings of events from the Old and New Testaments in an exhibition to be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from July 18 through August 19. Selected by Monroe Wheeler of the Museum staff from the Museum's print collection, these etchings, aquatints, lithographs and woodcuts will be available as a Circulating Exhibition after their Museum showing. Twenty-five prints by 20 artists are included, representing work from Germany, Belgium, Italy, the School of Paris and the United States.

The first prints, from woodblocks carved by anonymous monks in the 15th century, were popular images of saints and of episodes from the Bible. Today this same subject matter is a rich source for the modern artist, the interest is as compelling as it was for his predecessors. Among the artists represented, one only - Marc Chagall - has attempted a complete series of illustrations to the Bible. His Joseph the Shepherd is one of 105 etchings which as yet remain unpublished. The other artists have chosen merely isolated episodes from the gospel. The most frequent theme is the Crucifixion with five highly different renditions by Emile Bernard, André Racz, Georges Rouault, Jacques Villon and the young Italian Marcello Muccini.

A contrast to the deep religious inspiration of Rouault, represented by three examples, are Pascin's mundane Judgment of Solomon and Picasso's frankly witty David and Bathsheba, after Cranach.

The selection begins at the close of the 19th century with two illustrations by Redon for the Apocalypse of St. John, Maurice Denis' moving Christ at Emmaus and Ensor's Multiplication of the Fishes.

Work of the expressionists includes Beckmann, Kokoschka, Lehmbruck, and bold woodcuts by Barlach, Rohlfis and Schmidt-Rottluff; the last three show an affinity to early German religious woodcuts that particularly inspired so many of the German expressionists.

The most recent prints are by the two Americans André Racz and Bernard Reder. Racz's "There was darkness over the whole earth" is the last plate in a series of 15 engravings on the stations of the Cross. Reder's Meal inside the Ark is one of 45 woodcuts that are free personal interpretations of the story of the Flood.

MODERN BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

1951-52

An exhibition circulated by and selected from The Museum of Modern Art, New York

CHECK LIST:

- 27 prints
- 13 size #1 (16 x 22)
- 11 size #2 (22 x 28)
- 3 size #3 -2(30 x 40)
-1(31 x 26-1/2)

<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>Artist</u>	<u>Title, date and Medium</u>
309.48.1	BARLACH, Ernst	First Day of Creation(Let there be Light) Series <u>Metamorphic Creations of God</u> . Plate I. Woodcut. Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld
C/E I	BECKMANN, Max	Descent from the Cross. Series <u>Gesichter</u> Plate XI 1918. Drypoint. Gift of Mrs. Bertha Slattery Lieberman
328.50	BECKMANN, Max	Christ in the Wilderness. 1911. Lithograph Purchase Fund
C/E II	BEN ZION	Isaac being offered Sacrifice. Etching. Gift of Curt Valentin
C/E III	BEN ZION	Balaam and the Ass. Etching. Gift of Curt Valentin
469.49	BERNARD, Emile	Crucifixion. Woodcut. Purchase Fund
376.49	CHAGALL, Marc	Joseph, the Shepherd(One of 105 illustrations for the <u>Bible</u> commissioned by Ambroise Vollard, (unpublished). 1931-39 . Etching. Gift of Harry C. Oppenheimer
264.50	CORINTH, Lovis	Christ Bearing the Cross. "Weep not for me but rather for yourselves and your children" St. Luke 23:28. Lithograph. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Thannhauser
322.48	DENIS, Maurice	Christ at Emmaus. 1895. Color lithograph Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld
323.48	DERAIN, André	The Last Supper. Drypoint. Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld
117.49	ENSOR, James	The Multiplication of the Fishes, 1891. Etching on copper. Purchase Fund.

(continued on page 2.)

MODERN BIBLE ILLUSTRATION (Checklist contd.)

<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>Artist</u>	<u>Title, date and Medium</u>
235.47.11	KOKOSCHKA, Oskar	Pietà. Series " <u>Bach Cantata - O Eternity, Word of Thunder</u> ". Plate XI. 1914. Lithograph Purchase Fund
392.40	LEHMRUCK, Wilhelm	John, the Baptist. 1911. Drypoint. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
309.49.2	MUCCINI, Marcello	Crucifixion. 1947. Etching. Purchase Fund
466.40	PASCIN, Jules	Judgment of King Solomon. Drypoint. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
254.47	PICASSO, Pablo	Bathsheba I, 1947. Lithograph. Acquired through Lillie P. Bliss bequest
255.47	PICASSO, Pablo	Bathsheba II. 1947. Lithograph. Acquired through Lillie P. Bliss bequest
51.846	RACZ, André	There was darkness, over the whole earth. (One of 15 engravings for the Stations of the Cross) 1949. Woodcut Lent by Grace Borgenicht Gallery
51.847	REDER, Bernard	The Meal inside the Ark. Series of woodcuts based on the Story of Noah. 1948. Woodcut Lent by the artist.
558.40	REDON, Odilon	"And he held in his right hand seven stars and from his mouth came a double edged sword." Apocalypse of St. John. Plate I. 1899. Lithograph. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
559.40	REDON, Odilon	"And the name of the one on top was death." Apocalypse of St. John. Plate III. 1899. Litho. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
24.47	ROHLFS, Christian	Return of the Prodigal Son. 1916. Woodcut. Purchase Fund
91.49.35	ROUAULT, Georges	Crucifixion "Jesus will be in agony even to the end of the world". Series <u>Miserere</u> 1922. Aquatint, drypoint and roulette over heliogravure. Purchase Fund

(continued on page 3.)

MODERN BIBLE ILLUSTRATION (Checklist contd.)

<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>Artist</u>	<u>Title, date and Medium</u>
91.49.46	ROUAULT, Georges	Deposition "The just man, like sandalwood, perfumes the axe that strikes him." Series <u>Miserere</u> . 1926. Aquatint and drypoint over heliogravure Purchase Fund
420.49	ROUAULT, Georges	Christ before the City. Series <u>Passion</u> Frontispiece. 1935. Color aquatint Gift of the artist
13.45	SCHMIDT-ROTLUFF, Karl	The Three Kings. 1917. Woodcut Purchase Fund
265.51	VILLON, Jacques	Crucifixion. From Racine <u>Cantique Spirituel</u> . 1945. Etching. Purchase Fund

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