

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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May 1, 1934.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that James A. McNeill Whistler's "Portrait of the Artist's Mother" will be shown in the Museum on May 16, 17, and 18. At noon Saturday, May 19, it will sail on the S.S. Paris to its home in the Louvre. The famous painting will arrive from Boston in time for a private showing to members of the Museum on May 15.

The Louvre lent the picture to the Museum of Modern Art in the fall of 1932 for its Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture. It was hung in the place of honor in that Exhibition, facing the broad marble staircase on the second floor, and will occupy the same position for the four days of its final showing in this country. More than a hundred thousand people saw the painting in New York a year and a half ago. Since then it has toured the country under the auspices of the Museum of Modern Art and has been seen by more than two million people. Its four-day showing in New York the middle of this month may be the last time it will be seen in this country. It must reach France before June 1 to be included in a celebration marking Whistler's centenary.

The Museum closed Monday, April 30, and will not open again to the public until Wednesday, May 16, when summer hours will be in effect: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sundays. The Summer Exhibition will include the Bliss Collection, which will be shown in its entirety for the first time. In addition, a series of smaller exhibitions will be shown during the summer. One of these will be the Exhibition of Modern Architecture, which was assembled by the International Congress for Modern Architecture for the Triennial Exposition in Milan last summer.

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FOR RELEASE Tuesday, April 3, 1934.

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announced today that the painting by James Abbott McNeill Whistler which the artist called "An Arrangement in Gray and Black" but which the world knows as "Whistler's Mother" will be returned to New York for a two-day showing before it sails on May 19 for its home in The Louvre. It must be in Paris by June 1 to be displayed there in celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of Whistler's birth.

The famous painting was lent by The Louvre to the Museum of Modern Art in the fall of 1932 for its Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture held from October 31, 1932 to January 31, 1933. After the Exhibition closed, the Museum of Modern Art through the courtesy of The Louvre directed the Whistler portrait on a tour of the United States. Under the Museum's auspices the painting has been shown in San Francisco, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Baltimore, Kansas City and at the Chicago Century of Progress, where it remained on view for five months.

It is now being exhibited in the Dayton Art Institute, at Dayton, Ohio, where it is protected by armed guards, a heavy rail, and a hidden alarm which sets off a loud gong if the picture is moved the fraction of an inch. In addition, rectangular boxes at each side of the painting house photo-electric cells which guard the picture day and night with a "wall" of invisible light. If a trespasser should step across this unseen line of protection, a siren would instantly sound.

Late this month the "Mother" will travel to her son's native state of Massachusetts, to be shown in Boston. Unfortunately the time for display in that city has been cut from one month to a little more than two weeks, due to the necessity for the return of the painting to Paris before June 1. Boston, however, will have the privilege of showing it on Mother's Day, an anniversary with which the celebrated painting seems inextricably bound up, especially so this year when the facsimile of the painting will be printed on a special issue of Government postage stamps, available about May 1.