

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

531214-88

229  
Local general  
Design  
selected foreign  
" national  
invited guests  
FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY  
December 16, 1953

## SPECIAL SHOWING OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATING EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM

The Museum of Modern Art will present a visual report on the first nine months operation of its International Circulating Exhibitions Program on Tuesday, December 15, for invited representatives of the art world, educational foundations and the press. The special showing will be held on the third floor of the Manhattan Storage and Warehouse building, 52nd Street and Seventh Avenue from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The International Circulating Exhibitions Program, a five year project, was made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, for the purpose of stimulating understanding and respect among nations through a mutual awareness of their creative accomplishments. The program is under the direction of Porter McCray.

This special showing has been arranged because the exhibitions prepared under this program are seldom presented at the Museum itself. The material on view includes complete exhibitions on Japanese Architecture, The Skyscraper U.S.A., The American Woodcut Today and Twenty-Five American Prints. Samplings will be shown from an exhibition on Japanese Calligraphy, Built in U.S.A.: Postwar Architecture, and from three additional exhibitions of original graphic work. Photographic records, press clippings from other countries and itineraries will be shown for the large American painting and sculpture show now touring Europe, a watercolor show now in Honolulu, and this Museum's representation at the São Paulo Bienal which has just opened in Brazil. Material will also be presented on an exhibition of Italian architecture and design now touring the United States and an American photography exhibition now en route to Australia.

In addition material will be shown documenting the role the International Circulating Exhibitions program has played in several special projects for various U. S. government agencies. These include a selection of American posters for an international poster exhibition in Europe and an exhibition on "American Design for Home and Decorative Use" which left for Europe last fall. Material will also be shown on the International Program's cooperative role with the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London in the recent International Sculpture Competition on the Unknown Political Prisoner. The techniques of organizing and circulating art

(more)

exhibitions around the world will be indicated in a small display of packing boxes with multilingual instructions for shipping, packing, repacking and installation.

"Many of these exhibitions have been organized with a view to their circulation throughout the total five year period of the grant," Mr. McCray said. "These exhibitions prepared in the first months of the program consist of original prints or architectural material presented in the photographic panels which have been purchased outright. The three major painting and sculpture exhibitions which we have organized, on the other hand, are composed entirely of loans. These exhibitions have been scheduled for shorter terms so as not to impose an excessive burden on the lenders. Additional loan exhibitions of painting and sculpture and of other arts are in preparation."

Japanese Architecture, prepared for circulation on this continent, consists of numerous photographic enlargements, elevations, plans and drawings accompanied by an explanatory text. This exhibition surveys important monuments of Japanese architecture from its earliest history to contemporary times. A sampling from another exhibition, Japanese Calligraphy, now in preparation for circulation in this country will be on view also.

The American Woodcut Today, which has been purchased outright, was planned for showings in large centers. It is composed of work by 30 American artists from all parts of the country and reflects the recent revival of interest in this media, especially the large woodcut in color. The other print show which will be shown was planned for display in galleries with limited space and consists of 25 prints in black and white by artists whose work indicates the leading trends in American Art since 1920. Other print shows prepared for circulation abroad which will be represented by samplings include: Recent American Prints in Color, Contemporary Printmaking in the United States, Thirty American Printmakers and Young American Printmakers. The Skyscraper, U.S.A., also prepared for circulation abroad will be shown in its entirety. This exhibition traces the 70-year history of the tall building in this country in terms of design and structure. It is composed of enlarged photographs, plans and text.

The invited American representation at the Sao Paulo Bienal which opened December 12, will be shown in photographic reproductions of paintings, drawings and prints by 16 artists, by a similar documentation of a large retrospective exhibition of the work of Alexander Calder (sent as a one-man show), and a

(more)

sampling from Built in U.S.A.: Postwar Architecture. Another example of this exhibition will be seen in Europe.

Similar documentary material, including itineraries and press reactions, will be displayed for Twelve Americans, a large exhibition composed of 59 paintings by 9 painters and 18 sculptures by 3 sculptors. This exhibition, now touring Europe, formally inaugurated the International Exhibitions Program when it opened at the Musee National d'Art Moderne in Paris in April 1953. Similar material will be shown on the American Watercolorists exhibition which earlier toured Japan and is now in Honolulu. This includes 42 pictures by Prendergast, Marin, Feininger, Burchfield, Demuth, Tobey and Graves.