

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

531217-89

*local + Natl Design
invitation list*

PRESS PREVIEW : Tuesday,
December 22, 1953
2 to 5 p.m.

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday,
December 23, 1953

MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT OBJECTS FROM DESIGN COLLECTION

For the first time in its history the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will present an entire exhibition of beautiful and historically important objects which have been acquired for its unique Architecture and Design Collection.

Examples of industrial, craft, graphic and architectural design will be included in the exhibition which will be on view from December 23 through February 22. A dramatic background for the show has been designed by Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, who has lined one of the two first floor galleries with panels of snowlike plastic to make a striking and unusual background for the objects.

In the main entrance to the Museum Mr. Johnson has placed a stained glass window, "Nuit de Noel", by Henri Matisse. In the main hallway are colored paper maquettes of a chasuble, burse, stole and chalice which Matisse designed for the Chapel at Vence. In the galleries will be hung a white silk chasuble decorated with green and yellow satin applique, an example of exquisite needlework, also designed by Matisse.

A walnut handmade beaker by an American designer, crystal brandy and wine glasses from France, a porcelain coffee cup from Germany, a mother-of-pearl and ebony stamp box from Vienna, a Finnish wood platter, a silver chess set by an American artist, a lamp and chair from the Dutch Stijl movement, a Thonet bentwood chair manufactured in 1870, an Italian office typewriter, the famous leather and metal "Barcelona" chair by Mies van der Rohe, an English jewelry box, a model for "The Endless House" by Frederick Kiesler, and letterheads and envelopes, posters and book jackets by American and European graphic designers will all be on view.

This exhibition of 37 objects, all of which have been acquired since June, 1946, represents only a small fraction of the total Design Collection which includes approximately 2500 items. Architectural models, drawings and three dimensional color slides, furniture from the Art Nouveau period of 1900 to recent chairs by American designers such as Charles Eames, small objects such as Tiffany glass, lamps, kitchen utensils, fabrics, pottery and glassware, examples of Machine Art,

and posters, signs, letterheads and other combinations of word and image from the 1890's to the present day make up this highly selective Collection, the only one of its kind in the world.

These objects, selected for their intrinsic beauty and importance in the history and development of modern design, are available to students, artists and designers for study and are loaned to other museums and institutions for special displays. A large group from the Collection is now touring Europe in an exhibition of American design organized by the Museum for the United States Information Agency.

The Design Collection has been formed in part from material exhibited in the Museum. Lobmyer glass, Art Nouveau objects and Thonet chairs, for example, were first shown in various exhibitions presented by the Department of Architecture and Design and then acquired for the Collection. Other objects have first been shown in annual exhibitions of objects available in America. The Design Collection is one unit of the Museum Collections, under the Direction of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., which includes films and photographs as well as painting and sculpture.

All the objects in the present exhibition were acquired since 1946, although their date of design ranges from 1870 to 1953. In general this selection of recently acquired objects is planned to give an indication of the breadth of the collection and to show some of the particularly beautiful and elegant things which have been created by American and European designers in our time.

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C H E C K L I S T

RECENT ACQUISITIONS 1946 - 1953

Department of Architecture and Design

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Knife, Fork and Spoon - | Sterling silver 1938 | L. Caccia Dominioni & P.C. Castiglioni Italian. Manufactured by Azucena, Italy Anonymous gift |
| Table Lamp - | Glass & metal 1924 | Gerrit Rietveld, Dutch Gift of Gerrit Rietveld |
| Armchair - | Painted wood 1917 | Gerrit Rietveld, Dutch Anonymous gift |
| Stamp Box - | Mother-of-pearl & ebony 1946 | Josef Hoffman, Austrian Manufactured by Kunstlerwerkstätten Verein Vienna (Karl Krehan, crafts- man), Austria Purchase |
| Platter - | Laminated plywood 1951 | Tapio Wirkkala, Finnish Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc. |
| Tray - | Laminated plywood 1951 | Tapio Wirkkala, Finnish Gift of Greta Danie. |
| Chess Set - | Silver plated copper 1927 | Man Ray, American Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund |
| Armchair - | Wood 1870 | Thonet Brothers, Austrian Gift of Thonet Industries, Inc. |
| Lounge Chair - | Chrome-plated steel and leather 1926 | Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, American, born Germany. Gift of the manufacturer, Knoll Associates |
| Tumbler - | Crystal 1948 | Vera Liskova, Czechoslovakian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc. |
| Bowl - | Crystal 1948 | Vera Liskova, Czechoslovakian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc. |
| Jewel Box | Sterling silver decorated with mother-of-pearl, enamel & turquoise. 1900 | Charles Knox, English Manufactured for Liberty & Co. (William Craythorne, craftsman) Gift of the family of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. |

Coffee Cup - (modern adaptation of traditional design) Porcelain Manufactured by A. Giraud & Brousseau, Limoges, France Gift of Mayhew Shop

Coffee Cup - Porcelain 1929-1933 Trude Petri-Raben, American, born Germany Manufactured by Royal Berlin Porcelain Factory, Germany Gift of Fraser's, Inc.

Vase - Opaque glass 1949 Paolo Venini, Italian Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc.

Ice Bucket - Sterling silver & Raffia 1951 Magnus Stephensen, Danish Manufactured by Georg Jensen (G. Pedersen, craftsman), Denmark. Anonymous gift

~~Two Tumblers~~ - Crystal 1939 - 1941 Elis Bergh, Swedish Manufactured by Kosta Ltd., Sweden Gift of D. Stanley Corcoran

Beaker - Walnut 1951 Reynold G. Dennis, American Gift of the manufacturer, Temurian Crafts.

Ashtray & Cigarette Cup - Austrian jade 1948 Morris Zerner, American, born Austria Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc.

Two Stem Glasses - Crystal 1920 Josef Hoffmann, Austrian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.

Champagne Glass - Crystal 1924 Oswald Haerdtl, Austrian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.

Wine Glass - Crystal 1911 - 1935 Manufactured by Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, France. Gift of Baccarat & Porthault

Brandy Glass - Crystal 1895 M. Thiebault, French Manufactured by Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, France. Gift of Baccarat & Porthault

Office Typewriter - Metal 1947 Marcello Nizzoli, Italian Manufactured by the Olivetti Company, Italy Gift of the Olivetti Corp. of America

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| Church Vestments | Silk with velvet & silk decorations c. 1950 | Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Manufactured at Les Ateliers des Arts Appliques, Cannes, France. Purchase |
| Design for red & yellow chasuble. | Gouache on cut-and-pasted paper c. 1950 | Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest |
| Design for "Nuit De Noel" | Gouache on cut-and-pasted paper 1952 | Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Gift of Time, Inc. |
| "Nuit De Noel" | Stained glass window 1952 | Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Manufactured at the workshop of Paul and Adeline Bony, Paris, France. Gift of Time, Inc. |

ARCHITECTURE:

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| Endless House | Terra cotta 1951 | Frederick Kiesler, American, born Austria Purchase |
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GRAPHIC DESIGN:

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| Poster for Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan | 1938 | A. M. Cassandre, French Gift of A. M. Cassandre |
| Page from catalogue for Knoll Associates | 1951 | Herbert Matter, American, born Switzerland Gift of Herbert Matter |
| Catalogue cover "8 Automobiles" | 1951 | Leo Lionni, American, born Holland Gift of Leo Lionni |
| Pamphlet for Noonday Press | 1953 | Alvin Lustig, American Gift of Alvin Lustig |
| Letterhead | c. 1950 | Bruno Munari, Italian Gift of Bruno Munari |
| Album Cover "Ralph Sutton at the Piano" | 1952 | Rudolph de Harak, American Gift of Rudolph de Harak |
| Magazine Cover "Terapia" | 1953 | Will Burtin, American, born Germany Gift of Will Burtin |
| Letterheads and Envelopes | 1929 - 1934 | From the Jan Tschichold Collection Anonymous gift |