

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 90 A

MASTERS OF MODERN ART, edited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr.; 240 pages; 356 plates (77 in color); \$15. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York (Distributed by: United States, Simon & Schuster; England, Putnam & Co., Ltd; Europe, W.S. Hall; Latin America, Asia, Africa, Near East, Henry M. Snyder Co.

MASTERS OF MODERN ART, edited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., will be published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, on November 19 as its major 25th Anniversary Year publication. From the thousands of works of art -- paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, films, furniture, architectural designs and models, posters and photographs -- collected by the Museum from all over the world, over 350 of the best and most characteristic have been selected for reproduction in color and black and white. Mr. Barr, Director of Collections at the Museum has written a lively, informative text for the sections dealing with painting, sculpture and drawings; four other Museum authorities have provided texts on their departments: Philip C. Johnson, on architecture and design; Edward Steichen, on photography; Richard Griffith, on films; and William S. Lieberman, on prints.

Among the works of art from 28 countries discussed and illustrated in color or black and white in MASTERS OF MODERN ART are paintings by French artists from Cézanne to the young Bernard Buffet, by Italian Futurists, by German Expressionists, by Dutch pioneers of abstraction, by British sculptors and painters, by Spanish, Swiss, Norwegian and Belgian artists, and murals from Mexico and Brazil. French posters and architectural models, Italian typewriters and sewing machines, china from Germany, chairs from the Scandinavian countries, German, Soviet, French and Scandinavian films, and photographs from England and France, prints and paintings from Latin America, a chair from Argentina, and a jewel casket from England are among the other diverse objects shown in this international review of the visual arts of our time.

In his entertaining text on the paintings, sculpture and drawings in the Museum's Collection, Mr. Barr combines scholarship with informal and varied commentary on artists and movements in modern art. Quotations from artists, notes on the public's and critics' first reaction to paintings now greatly valued and generally considered modern masters, anecdotes about the pictures and the men and women who made them are woven into a fascinating account of the art of our time from the revolutionary painters of the late 19th century to the controversial work being done today here and abroad by young artists.

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The unsurpassed resources of the Museum's modern print collection are discussed by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints, who makes clear what an extraordinary renaissance has taken place in printmaking through the work of many of the best artists of our period. Edward Steichen, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, has written a thoughtful, sensitive introduction to the 25 photographs he has chosen to represent the Museum's Collection, ranging from Brady's famous Civil War photographs to recent experimental abstract photographs by young Americans. Richard Griffith, Curator of the Film Library, reviews some of the principle master-works in the Museum's world-famous Film Library and uses stills from more than 60 movies to illustrate the 50-year development of an art which he describes as "the lineal descendant of the magic carpet and the ancestor, perhaps, of the time machine."

The Museum's wide influence in architecture and design is indicated by Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design. Objects from the Museum's collection as diverse as chairs, typewriters, models of famous houses, . . . church vestments, tools and machine parts, tableware and posters from the gay nineties to the present are illustrated for their esthetic qualities and historical significance.

In his preface to MASTERS OF MODERN ART, Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, surveys the cultural contribution that the Museum as a whole has made in its 25 years of activity. John Hay Whitney, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, sounds the keynote for the Museum's policy and for this book in a challenging foreward in which he declares: "Particularly during the time when conformity enforced through authoritarian pressure is a constant threat to the development of a free society, it is most heartening to turn to the arts and find in them the vitality and diversity that reflect freedom of thought and of faith. We believe that the collection of the Museum of Modern Art and this publication represent our respect for the individual and his ability to contribute to society as a whole through the free use of his individual gifts...This freedom we believe fundamental to democratic society."

NOTE: Requests for additional information should be addressed to Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art.

Since its founding, the Museum of Modern Art books have been widely praised for their contribution to the understanding of the modern visual arts. Many of them are used as texts in schools and colleges throughout the world. 204 titles have been published in English and foreign languages, on painting, sculpture, prints, architecture, industrial design, photography and films. A descriptive catalog of the 81 titles now available will be sent to you upon request.

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