

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, September 20, 1957  
No. 2

## AMERICAN ARTISTS WIN RECOGNITION AT SAO PAULO BIENAL

Increasing international recognition for the achievements of American artists is indicated by the announcement of awards at the IV Bienal do Museu de Arte Moderna of São Paulo which will be formally opened by the President of Brazil, Dr. Juscelino Kubitschek on September 22 and remain on view until December 31. The top acquisition prize of 100,000 cruzeiros [approximately \$5,440.00 at the official rate of exchange, \$1,260.00 at the free rate], offered by the Jockey Club of São Paulo, went to the New York sculptor Seymour Lipton, one of eight living artists featured in the United States representation. A one-man show of paintings by the late Jackson Pollock which constituted the other section of the American exhibition at the Bienal, although not eligible for a prize since only living artists may compete, was awarded a special "hors de concours" citation from the International Jury of critics from sixteen different countries. Other non-Brazilian artists honored by the International Jury include Giorgio Morandi of Italy, winner of the main São Paulo prize of 300,000 cruzeiros; Ben Nicholson of Great Britain, who won the prize for the best non-Brazilian painter; Jorge de Oteiza Embil of Spain, judged the best foreign sculptor; and Japan's Yozo Hamaguchi, best non-Brazilian printmaker. The only other one-man show besides that of Pollock to receive special citation from the jury was Marc Chagall of France, who with Ben Nicholson of Britain was chief contender for the São Paulo Prize received by Morandi.

The São Paulo Bienal, first inaugurated in 1951, is regarded as the most important international art exhibition in the Western Hemisphere and is rivaled elsewhere only by the biennial art exhibitions at Venice. Forty-two countries from all over the world, in addition to the Pan American Union, participated in this year's event at which China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Honduras, Poland, Sweden, Turkey and the Union of South Africa were represented for the first time. The United States section unlike those of other countries was not government sponsored but was organized at the invitation of the Bienal authorities by the International Program of The Museum of Modern Art, New York and presented under the auspices of the newly established International Council at The Museum of Modern Art. Porter A. McCray, Director of the International Program and of the International Council, under whose supervision the exhibition was organized, traveled to Brazil to conclude arrangements for

more.....

the presentation of the exhibition and attend the inauguration of the Bienal. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections at The Museum of Modern Art, is also in Brazil serving in the dual capacity of United States Commissioner for the Bienal and a member of the International Jury.

Following a press view on September 20, the Bienal will be officially opened at noon on Sunday, September 22 by President Kubitschek of Brazil. Leading ministers of the Brazilian Government, officials of the State and of the Municipality of São Paulo under whose patronage the Bienal is arranged, and ambassadors and other diplomatic representatives from the participating countries are expected to take part in the opening ceremonies. The United States will be represented by its Chargé d'Affaires, Woodruff Wallner, and Lawrence Morris, Cultural Attaché of the American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

Thirty-four paintings and 29 drawings by Jackson Pollock, leading avant-garde American artist who was killed last year in an automobile accident, comprise one section of the United States representation. This major retrospective including many works by the artist never previously exhibited and lent for the occasion by his widow Lee Krasner Pollock, will travel to Europe following the closing of the Bienal in response to a number of requests from institutions eager to show Pollock's work. The other section consists of approximately five works by each of the painters James Brooks, Philip Guston, Grace Hartigan, Franz Kline and Larry Rivers and the sculptors David Hare, Ibram Lassaw and Seymour Lipton. The work of these young artists, all regarded as of particular significance in contemporary American art, has previously been seen only in isolated examples, if at all, in international exhibitions abroad. Selection of the works of art was made by Frank O'Hara of the staff of the International Program of The Museum of Modern Art, in consultation with Mr. McCray; James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture; Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of the Museum Collections; and Sam Hunter, Associate Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture. Seven museums in the United States and one in Brazil, as well as 25 private collectors, 5 art galleries, a university and one of the artists represented were lenders to the exhibition.

The United States representation at São Paulo is the first important project undertaken under the sponsorship of The International Council at The Museum of Modern Art which assumed responsibility for the Museum's International Program on July 1 this year. The Council, a membership organization of art patrons and community leaders throughout the country, has entered into an agreement with the Museum and the

more.....

Rockefeller Brothers Fund, donor of the original grant under which the International Program has operated since its establishment in 1952. With the aid of continuing contributions from the Fund and by dues from its members and other donations, the Council will continue and if possible expand the Program's activities during the next five-year period. In organizing the exhibitions it sends abroad the International Program will continue to rely heavily on the experience and staff of The Museum of Modern Art but will also pursue the policy inaugurated during its first five years of enlisting the aid of other institutions throughout the United States.

In accordance with an agreement for collaboration in cultural exchanges signed between The Museum of Modern Art and the Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo in 1950, the New York museum has been closely associated with the Bienals since their inception. For the I Bienal in 1951 it organized a Selection Committee of experts from a number of museums in the United States and sent to São Paulo 124 works of painting, sculpture and prints by 58 American artists. At the II Bienal the Museum itself under the International Program organized the United States participation which consisted of a one-man show of the works of Alexander Calder, 32 paintings, drawings and prints by 16 artists and an architectural exhibition BUILT IN U.S.A.: POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE. In 1955 the invitation from the Bienal authorities was transmitted by The Museum of Modern Art to the San Francisco Museum of Art which in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Museum and with assistance from the International Program arranged for a showing at the III Bienal of the work of 88 Pacific Coast artists.

- (See attached lists: 1. Lenders to the United States Representation  
2. Countries participating in the IV Bienal do Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil)

---

For further information call Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53 Street, New York City. Circle 5-8900.

I. LENDERS TO THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION, IV BIENAL DO MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNA, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, 1957

Museums: Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, Texas; Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York; Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.

University: Collection of Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Private

Collectors: Richard Brown Baker, New York, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bareiss, Greenwich, Connecticut; Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York, New York; Arthur Cinader, New York, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Morton Feldman, New York, New York; Philip Goodwin, New York, New York; Clement Greenberg, New York, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Heller, New York, New York; Mrs. Frederick W. Hilles, New Haven, Connecticut; Boris and Sophie Leavitt of Lana Lobell, Hanover, Pennsylvania; Linda Lindeberg, New York, New York; Mrs. H. Gates Lloyd, Haverford, Pennsylvania; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Matthiesen, Springs, Long Island, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Patrick B. McGinnis, Boston, Massachusetts; Daniel T. Miller, Springs, Long Island, New York; Dr. and Mrs. Fred Olsen, Guilford, Connecticut; Miss Katharine Ordway, Westport, Connecticut; Mr. and Mrs. George Poindexter, New York, New York; Lee Krasner Pollock, Springs, Long Island, New York; \*Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, New York, New York; Nelson A. Rockefeller, New York, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Sperry, Evanston, Illinois; Joseph F. Smith, Summit, New Jersey; Mrs. Emily Walker, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

\*Penelope Potter, Amagansett, Long Island, New York;

Artist: Seymour Lipton, New York, New York.

Galleries: Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, New York; Kootz Gallery, New York, New York; Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York; Stable Gallery, New York, New York; Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York, New York.

---

II. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE IV BIENAL DO MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNA, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

North America (2): Canada; The United States of America

Latin America (16): Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Haiti; Honduras; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela

(In addition a separate representation has been arranged by the Pan American Union)

Europe (18): Austria; Belgium, Czechoslovakia; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Yugoslavia

Africa (1): Union of South Africa

Near East (2): Israel; Turkey

Far East (3): China; Japan; Viet Nam

Total: 42, plus the Pan American Union