

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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The most important group of newly acquired paintings and sculptures to enter the Museum of Modern Art collection since 1934 will be on view from October 8 through November 9 as one of several exhibitions marking the re-opening of the Museum at 11 West 53 Street, New York, after a four-month period of renovation.

These purchases and gifts are being shown with 26 additional works of extraordinary quality and value lent for the exhibition as a special gesture of support by trustees and other friends who have promised that they will eventually give or bequeath them to the Museum.

"Works of Art: Given or Promised" includes such world-famous paintings as Cézanne's Le Château Noir, Picasso's Two Acrobats with a Dog, Boy Leading a Horse, and Woman by a Window, Renoir's Le Moulin de la Galette and Judgment of Paris, Toulouse-Lautrec's "Chilperic" and Mondrian's Trafalgar Square.

In a special gallery the Museum is also showing 11 works presented to the Collection by the family of the late Philip L. Goodwin, for many years a trustee and benefactor of the Museum. These include an early Léger, a fauve Derain and John Marin's Lower Manhattan, the best-known and one of the finest paintings by the American artist.

The 50 works in the exhibition will eventually double the importance of the Museum's present collection of late 19th century European masters and greatly strengthen the 20th century collection, according to Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Collections. This showing of new accessions is matched in the Museum's 29-year history only by the exhibition of the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest in 1934. This laid the foundation for the collection which has since grown to encompass a unique representation of art of the western world of the past 75 years. Only about one-ninth of the Museum's paintings can ordinarily be shown due to lack of adequate gallery space.

Donors of works in the present exhibition are Mrs. David M. Levy, the late Nate B. Spingold and his wife, Frances Spingold, LeRay W. Berdeau, David Rockefeller and G. David Thompson. Purchases were made through funds provided by Mrs. Simon Guggenheim and Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Rübél.

Patrons who have promised future gifts from their own private collections are William A. M. Burden, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Jaffe, William S. Paley, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Rothschild, Mrs. Louise R. Smith, James Thrall Soby and the Honorable and Mrs. John Hay Whitney.

In the catalog accompanying the exhibition, Mr. Barr says:

"The importance of these works of art to the Museum's collection is very great.  
more . . . .

Their extraordinary quality is obvious. Their enormous value makes them speaking, irreplaceable. Furthermore, and to a remarkable extent they will strengthen the collection often where it is weakest.

"Previously the Museum owned only one painting each by Seurat and Renoir, none by Toulouse-Lautrec. The exhibition includes two notable works by each of these masters, as well as one by Degas, one by Gauguin and three by Vuillard, all of which have been quite inadequately represented. Two very fine Cézanne landscapes complete a constellation which will eventually double the importance of the Museum's present collection of late 19th century European masters.

"The Museum's 20th century collection is much stronger but even in this field the present exhibition offers no duplications and includes a number of paintings which already seem almost indispensable. Previously the Museum had no major works by Picasso painted before 1907 or since 1939; here are no less than five and, in addition, the most famous of his early cubist paintings and two capital works of the between-wars period.

"The Mondrian is possibly the master's greatest composition; and quite aside from their quality, the Arp and the Brancusi, the Braque, the two Légers, the Lipchitz, and the Klee are quite different from anything owned by the Museum. The two Miro's are strikingly unique within the painter's work; by contrast the two de Chirico's are so characteristic that they were particularly esteemed by the Surrealist painters and poets. The Delaunay is a culminating work of the painter's cubist period so far unrepresented in the collection which has also lacked an entirely characteristic painting by Boccioni, the leader of the Italian Futurists."

Explaining the lack of American paintings, Mr. Barr says that while a number of highly desirable paintings were offered in principle by collectors, almost all of the pictures themselves were in Europe in exhibitions organized by the Museum's International Program. These and other American works will be included in a subsequent show.

The Philip L. Goodwin Collection, however, in addition to the famous Marin, includes work by four other American artists: a collage relief by Arthur Dove; a watercolor by Charles Demuth; a painted wood sculpture by Nadelman; and a carved table by Noguchi.

"As a collector, Philip Goodwin preferred works modest in scale and chose them with fastidious taste so well shown in the paintings and sculpture given to the Museum by members of his family," Mr. Barr says. "All are shown in a special gallery to honor the donor and the things he loved."

For photographs and additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.