

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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FOR RELEASE

Saturday, December 6, 1958.

Note to City Editors and Photo Assignment Editors. Workmen will actually begin to erect the gate at 12:30 p.m. Friday. We expect it will take several hours

A 15 foot high cast iron gate taken from the entrance to a Paris subway station will be erected in the Garden of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Friday, December 5. The gate, which weighs 3000 pounds and is 21 feet wide, has been given to the Museum by the Paris transit authority (R.A.T.P. - Régie <sup>Parisienne</sup> Automote des Transports) and will be part of a large exhibition of objects from the Design Collection opening on December 17.

It is one of hundreds of similar gates, which have been part of the Paris street scene since 1900, and which are now being dismantled by the Parisian government because the subway stations are being enlarged and renovated. Designed by Hector Guimard, it is considered an outstanding example of Art Nouveau, which is characterized by curvilinear, plant-like forms. This was the first style in this century to break with historical revivalism.

In its new setting, the Paris subway entrance will be free standing and silhouetted against the gray brick stair tower in the Museum Garden. It is complete with lamps and with the subway sign, "Metropolitain" lettered in Art Nouveau style.

The gate was dismantled and sent to this country in sections. American Export Lines provided the transportation.

The exhibition of which the gate will be a part covers the complete range of 20th century design from the turn of the century up to the present. It is being installed in the Museum third floor galleries and will include chairs, lamps, household accessories, pots and pans, tools and other design objects from this country and Europe.

\*\*\*For additional information please call Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. Circle 5-8900.