

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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JOAN MIRO by James Thrall Soby. 164 pages; 148 illustrations, 35 in color. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Doubleday & Co. Inc. \$8.50

JOAN MIRO, the most extensive monograph on the internationally famous Spanish artist thus far published, will be issued by the Museum of Modern Art on August 6. Written by the well-known critic James Thrall Soby, it provides a comprehensive account of the 66-year old artist's life and achievements as painter, sculptor and printmaker. The handsome four-color jacket was designed by Miro.

Although Miro has worked for long intervals in France his Catalan heritage has been of overwhelming importance in his work. The dances, music, festivals and Romanesque frescoes of his native province have provided the central sources of his inspiration. Mr. Soby traces the artist's development from his youth in Montroig and Barcelona, days of extreme poverty in Paris in the early 20's, his association with the Surrealists, the work inspired by the Dutch "Little Masters," the fantastic landscapes of the 30's, "Constellations" of the 40's. He concludes with recent work of the 50's, including two walls executed for the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris for which Miro won the \$10,000 1958 Guggenheim International Prize, presented last May in Washington by President Eisenhower.

Works by Miro are included in public and private collections throughout Europe and America. The culminating work of his early career, The Farm (1921-22), is owned by Ernest Hemingway and, in the midst of the Cuban revolution, was brought from the writer's home outside Havana to New York for the Museum of Modern Art's Miro retrospective. Hemingway, who bought the painting in the early 20's on the installment plan has said: "No one could look at it and not know it had been painted by a great painter...It has in it all that you feel about Spain when you are there and all that you feel when you are away and cannot go there...No one else has been able to paint these two very opposing things..."

The unusually large number of illustrations, approximately one-fourth of which are in color, the chronological list of more than 100 exhibitions of Miro's work in America and Europe from 1918 through 1959 and the extensive bibliography which includes texts by the artist, interviews, films, graphics, monographs, articles and catalogs add to the usefulness of the book for art students. Its publication follows the Miro exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art last spring and at the Los Angeles County Museum this summer.

Mr. Soby is the author of many books on modern art including Juan Gris (1958), Modern Art and the New Past (1957) and Giorgio de Chirico (1955).

Review copies and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900