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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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May 21, 1960

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CLAUDE MONET: SEASONS AND MOMENTS by William C. Seitz. 64 pages. 35 black and white photographs; 9 color plates. \$3.50 (cloth); \$1.95 (paper). Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed to booksellers throughout the country by Doubleday & Co., Inc. Publication date: May 27, 1960.

Claude Monet: Seasons and Moments, a 64 page book by William C. Seitz, will be published by the Museum of Modern Art on May 27 in conjunction with its recent major exhibition of the famous French artist's work selected and installed by the author. The show, which includes the largest group of Monet's famous "series" pictures ever brought together, and which attracted record crowds at the Museum of Modern Art this spring, will open at the Los Angeles County Museum on June 14.

Mr. Seitz' profusely illustrated essay traces the development of Monet's work over a period of 60 years from general representations of season and light to paintings which attempt to capture increasingly specific moments of weather and atmosphere. The artist's constant struggle to reproduce more and more transient effects is recorded in quotations and excerpts from his letters.

A separate section is devoted to each of the series in which the same subject - haystacks, cathedrals, London, Venice scenes and water lilies - was repeated at different hours of the day or times of the year. Mr. Seitz points out that these pictures remain the most controversial of Monet's works. During the period from 1930 to 1950 the better-known style of the 1870's was greatly preferred and often regarded as the only "true" impressionism.

From 1858 to his death in 1926 Monet produced an almost unbroken succession of paintings which reveal a diversity deriving directly from the diversity of nature to which he was completely devoted. In 1874 he joined with other impressionist painters, including Renoir, Pissarro and Degas to organize group exhibitions of their work. His picture "Impression - Sunrise", which was hung in the first of these shows, christened the new movement. Monet continued to exhibit with the impressionists until 1880 when he announced his independence of the group. Two years later, at the insistence of the dealer Durand-Ruel who had been of great help to Monet and his friends, he consented to show with them for the last time.

A chronological outline of major events in the artist's life and exhibitions of his work during the past century is included as well as a catalog listing of the Museum's exhibition and a selected bibliography.

Mr. Seitz, a professor of art at Princeton University, will join the Museum of Modern Art staff in the fall as Associate Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions.

Photographs and review copies are available from Nancy Reed, Assistant to the Publicity Director, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N.Y. CI 5-8900.

Note to out-of-town reviewers:

Since Museum of Modern Art books are frequently published in conjunction with an exhibition there is an unavoidable lag between the date they go on sale at the Museum and the delivery date to booksellers throughout the country. Claude Monet Seasons and Moments has been for sale at the Museum since March. However, publication date is May 27 timed for the arrival of the books in your local stores.