

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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THE WORK OF JEAN DUBUFFET by Peter Selz with text by the artist. 184 pages; 125 plates (21 in color); paper, \$3.75, hardbound, \$7.50. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc. May 18, 1962.

The Work of Jean Dubuffet by Peter Selz will be published by The Museum of Modern Art May 18. The 184-page monograph on the leading French artist is illustrated with 104 black and white and 21 full-page color plates. It includes, in addition to Mr. Selz' text, three essays by Dubuffet who also designed the jacket. The book is on sale at the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, for \$7.50 hardbound, or \$3.75, paper. It will also be distributed to booksellers throughout the country by Doubleday & Co., Inc.

The book surveys Dubuffet's development since 1942 when, after two previous attempts, he again turned to painting at the age of 39. Mr. Selz discusses the constant changes in Dubuffet's style, his concern with new materials and techniques, his dual interest in landscape and the human figure. He says that, in spite of the seemingly extreme contrasts in subject and medium Dubuffet's work has a unity of form, content and material beyond the unity of form and content essential to all art.

The key to Dubuffet's work, Mr. Selz says, is the artist's statement "my art is an attempt to bring all disparaged values into the limelight." It accounts for his subjects--the walls of old buildings, jazz musicians, drilling dentists, old tables and stones, Bowery bums. It explains his use of new techniques, his opposition to classical beauty, his interest in the values of barbarism, the art of the simple-minded, the psychopaths, the untrained.

The text by Dubuffet provides further insight into his ideas and methods. It consists of an essay on his 1950-51 paintings, "Landscaped Tables, Landscapes of^{the} Mind, Stones of Philosophy;" a memoir on the development of his work from 1952 to 1957 and a statement on his most recent paintings. According to Mr. Selz, Dubuffet is the most lucid artist writing on art since Delacroix and van Gogh.

Publication of the book coincides with the Art Institute of Chicago's showing (May 11 - June 17) of the large Dubuffet retrospective organized by Mr. Selz and recently presented at The Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition will also be shown at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in July. Over half the 200 paintings, sculptures, assemblages and drawings in the show are illustrated. In addition, the book includes extensive notes and bibliography as well as a list of Dubuffet's major exhibitions since 1944 when he first exhibited at the Galerie René Drouin in Paris.

Mr. Selz, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, is author of German Expressionist Painting, New Images of Man, 15 Polish Painters, Mark Rothko and editor of Art Nouveau.

Photographs and review copies available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.