

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Unprecedented loans of works of art from The Museum of Modern Art Collection have been made to leading museums in this country and Canada for the five month period beginning tomorrow (Dec. 2) when the Museum galleries in New York close in order to complete the current building program.

The Art Lending Service, the People's Art Center classes and the bookstore will remain open during the transition period. All offices will also remain open and photo services and sales of film stills will continue. Although the daily film showings at the Museum will be suspended, the Film Library will continue to circulate film programs to film societies and educational institutions throughout the country.

The largest single loan being made during this period is an exhibition of 153 paintings which will be shown at the National Gallery in Washington, D. C. from December 17 through March 1. Paintings from The Museum of Modern Art Collection will be the first survey of 20th century art shown at the National Gallery and will include many of the Museum's most notable pictures, such as van Gogh's Starry Night and Rousseau's Sleeping Gypsy as well as more recent work from this country and abroad.

Thirty-three Surrealist paintings are being lent to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for an exhibition to open there in January. Included are well-known works by de Chirico, Dali, Magritte, Arp, Masson, Miró and Tanguy.

Twenty-six large sculptures, shipped to The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, include Duchamp-Villon's The Horse, Lipchitz' Figure and Mother and Child, Maillol's Mediterranean, Moore's Reclining Figure II, Renoir's Washerwoman, and the four Matisse Backs, all familiar to visitors to The Museum of Modern Art Sculpture Garden, as well as works by Epstein, Roszak, Julius Schmidt and David Smith from the indoor sculpture galleries.

The Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, is receiving 46 works: Paintings and Sculpture by Picasso; Paintings by Fernand Léger; Paintings and Sculpture by Henri Matisse; and Expressionism in Germany.

The 42-foot long triptych, Monet's Waterlilies, has been lent to the Art Institute of Chicago where it went on view last week. Another earlier loan was major sculpture by Moore, Marini and Desplau sent to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

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Ninety-nine works by Picasso (11 paintings, nine drawings, 19 prints, one bronze from the Museum Collection, as well as 59 studies for the Guernica mural on extended loan from the artist), are being lent to the Art Gallery of Toronto and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for a major retrospective in Canada. Included are such famous works as Les Demoiselles d'Avignon, Ma Jolie, Harlequin, and Three Women at the Spring. The exhibition, the largest Picasso show ever presented in Canada, includes loans from many collections. It will open in Toronto and then travel to Montreal.

In addition to these special loans, made possible only because the Museum galleries are closing, more than 400 works from the Collection will be traveling throughout this country and Canada, lent by the Museum to its own program of traveling exhibitions. More than 40 works, also from the Collection, will be included in exhibitions traveling abroad during this period, under the sponsorship of the Museum's International Council.

The new galleries now being built on 53rd and 54th Streets and the remodeled main building will open in mid-May with a special group of exhibitions planned for the summer of the New York World's Fair.

The building program of the Museum, made possible by the recent successful fund raising campaign, will more than double the Museum's exhibition space. Temporary changing exhibitions will be presented in the new ground floor galleries while the Museum's own collections of painting, sculpture, architecture and design, drawings and prints and photographs will be on view in new galleries and remodeled existing galleries on the second and third floors. The Sculpture Garden will be greatly enlarged as the roof of the new Garden Wing will be landscaped and connected with the existing garden by broad flights of outdoor stairs.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.