he Museum of Modern Art

est 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 CIrcle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

491

No. 130
Thursday, December 2, 1965
ADVANCE TO MAGAZINES

René Magritte, 67-year old Belgian artist and famous surrealist painter, will come to New York to attend the December 13 preview of his exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition will open to the public on December 15. After it closes February 27, it will travel to Brandeis University, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Pasadena Art Museum, and the University Art Museum, Berkeley.

The exhibition of 75 oils was selected by William C. Seitz, former Curator of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and James Thrall Soby, Museum Trustee and Chairman of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, who also wrote the accompanying catalog. Although not an exhaustive survey, the exhibition includes work from 1926 to 1965, borrowed from private and public collections here and abroad.

"Perhaps more than any other painter of his generation," Soby says, "he has caught what Guillaume Apollinaire called art's greatest potential -- surprise."

Museum of Modern Art visitors are familiar with Magritte paintings in the Museum Collections which demonstrate his humor, his placement of carefully painted objects where we have never found them before, his use of a single contradictory detail to challenge our visual habits: The False Mirror, in which sky and clouds fill the iris of a large eye; Portrait, in which an open eye in the middle of a ham steak replaces the marrow bone; Empire of Light II, in which street lights shine in a darkened road while above the sky is luminous and clearly sunlit; and Souvenir de Voyage, a portrait of a man and lion carved in stone.

Magritte, who was born in Belgium, has lived in Brussels all his adult life except for a three year period in the late 20's when he joined the surrealist group in Paris.

The exhibition is being installed by Alicia Legg, Associate Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, in the ground floor galleries of the garden wing.

* *

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. CIrcle 5-8900.