

The Museum of Modern Art

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ADVANCE ONLY

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

One hundred oils and watercolors by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art from March 23 through May 22 in an unprecedented loan exhibition of works from the British National collections. Selected by Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions and Publications at the Museum, and Lawrence Gowing, Keeper of British Paintings, Turner: Imagination and Reality includes many works not exhibited since the artist completed them. Six masterworks from American collections are also included. An illustrated monograph by Mr. Gowing will be published by the Museum at the time of the exhibition.

Turner died 115 years ago, but some of his pictures look as if they were painted yesterday, Gowing points out. "These pictures, from the last twenty years of Turner's life, revealed potentialities in painting which have only appeared again in our own time."

Proclaimed a painter by his father when he was 14, a full member of the Royal Academy at 24, J.M.W. Turner became the most successful practitioner of landscape painting in England. In his forties, proud and rich and idiosyncratic, he found himself revolutionizing his art, eliminating from it linear draughtsmanship and classical composition; glorifying only light and shade, by the sole means of color. Transcending the concepts of romantic art, he reached out into the borderland between representation and the abstract.

These modern aspects of Turner's art with which the Museum's exhibition is concerned scarcely appear in the work exhibited in his lifetime. He left to the British nation approximately 300 oils and 19,000 watercolors and drawings. For the most part, the most revolutionary pictures were not placed on exhibition until the present century and some of the watercolors in the Museum show have not previously been shown, even in England.

The exhibition has received the official sponsorship of the British Foreign Office, The National Gallery, The Tate Gallery and The British Museum. The pictures will be shipped on board the S.S. United States.

Black and white photographs, color transparencies and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.