

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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MODERN ART IN PRINTS by Riva Castleman. 76 pages; 65 illustrations (8 in color).
Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Paperbound \$3.95

MODERN ART IN PRINTS, by Riva Castleman, Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books at The Museum of Modern Art, to be published by the Museum on April 23, is devoted to work produced in the years since World War II, a period that has witnessed a renewal of activity in the field of printmaking. The book illustrates a selection of fifty works with commentaries on their stylistic, technical and historical development. Included are examples showing the creative use of the traditional means of printmaking by masters of modern art such as Picasso, Matisse, and Chagall, as well as very recent works, often innovative, by younger artists.

"In order to survey the history of Western...printmaking during the last quarter-century," Riva Castleman explains, "one would need to represent works by literally thousands of artists. This small selection of fifty prints is therefore but a hint at some of the more potent stylistic developments in art during the period. The writer has included examples of various technical approaches to printmaking that have altered traditional concepts...[to present] a condensed view of contemporary printmaking designed to offer an awareness of the foundation upon which the art of our time is building."

In the twenty-five years since the War, not only have a growing number of young artists devoted themselves exclusively to printmaking, but the majority of European and American artists extended their interests beyond painting, sculpture and drawing to take up one or more forms of printmaking as well. Printmaking techniques have undergone appreciable modification during the period, and special attention is given to the revitalization of lithography and the changes in intaglio and relief.

The prints illustrated were selected for an exhibition that was formed for circulation in Asia, New Zealand and Australia, under the auspices of The Inter-

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national Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition, MODERN PRINTS, opened in Perth, Australia, on April 19.

The book offers a supplement on the care and preservation of prints by Antoinette King, Senior Paper Conservator at The Museum of Modern Art. The essay is accompanied by illustrations concerning the conservation of paper.

Riva Castleman is the author of Technics and Creativity: Gemini G.E.L. and Contemporary Prints (to be published by Viking this year) and numerous articles in the international art press.

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Review copies and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, 956-7504.
