

The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 85A
FOR RELEASE:
OCTOBER 10, 1973
Press Preview: October 9,
11 am - 4 pm

JOAN MIRÓ EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

In honor of Joan Miró's 80th birthday, The Museum of Modern Art will put on view from October 10 through December 10, 1973, a special exhibition of 40 paintings, sculptures and collages (and a selection of prints) by the famous Spanish artist drawn entirely from its present collection and from future bequests and promised gifts. The show includes a number of recent acquisitions and gifts -- some of the latter from the artist himself -- which have not yet been exhibited by the Museum.

Organized by William Rubin, Chief Curator, Painting and Sculpture Collection, Miró in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art is part of a series of exhibitions drawn from the present and future collections of the Museum. Like the most recent in this series, Picasso in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, the Miró show is accompanied by a book*, also by Mr. Rubin, in which each work is illustrated and discussed in a scholarly and incisive manner. Mr. Rubin points out that The Museum of Modern Art's collection of Mirós contains a large number of the artist's masterpieces and constitutes the finest and most comprehensive collection of his art in public or private hands.

Beyond giving generously of his time to Mr. Rubin in connection with his monograph, Miró himself has been extraordinarily helpful in the formation of this collection of his work. He donated outright a large painting of 1972, Woman with Three Hairs Surrounded by Birds in the Night; a new version of a lost object-sculpture of 1931, Personnage au Parapluie; as well as 12 drawings and a collage that constitute the preparatory studies for three of the key paintings the Museum owns (Dutch Interior, Portrait of Mistress Mills in 1750, Painting, 1933). In addition, he assisted substantially in the acquisition of the monumental bronze Moonbird and contributed two works to be sold in order to raise funds for the

*Miró in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art by William Rubin. 140 pages. 64 illustrations (22 in color) plus 71 reference illustrations. \$15.00 cloth-bound, distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society, Ltd.; \$7.95 paper-bound.

(more)

purchase of a major work, The Birth of the World, from a private collector.

Other important promised gifts which will be shown as part of the Museum's Miró collection for the first time in this exhibition are the Bather from the Mr. and Mrs. Armand Bartos collection and five diverse and extraordinary paintings and drawings from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bunshaft. Other promised gifts in the show include Hirondelle/Amour in the collection of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and four unique works promised by James Thrall Soby, the painter's long-time friend whose classic monograph was published in conjunction with the Museum's large Miró retrospective of 1959. Among other donors is Pierre Matisse, who gave three important works, including Object, the most extraordinary of Miró's Surrealist constructions.

The Museum showed its first Mirós in 1930, a few months after the institution was founded. Since then it has presented more than 20 exhibitions in which a significant number of his works were shown, including three one-man shows. The first two, devoted to painting and sculpture, were held in 1941 and 1959, and a print show in 1970.

Miró was born in Montroig, a small Spanish town, in 1893, and trained as an artist at the nearby Barcelona School of Fine Arts and other local academies. His own authoritative style is Surrealist in origin and forms a chapter in the history of the School of Paris, but is deeply rooted in his Catalan heritage, in his native province's Romanesque frescoes, in its music, architecture and festivals. It seems especially fitting, therefore, that The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition should coincide with New York City's "Week in Spain" which Mayor John V. Lindsay will officially open on October 4.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.
