

MATISSE

IN THE COLLECTION OF
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Matisse in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art. By John Elderfield, with additional text by William S. Lieberman and Riva Castleman. 232 pages. 130 illustrations (34 in color). 144 reference illustrations. \$25.00 cloth-bound; \$12.50 paperbound. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Matisse in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, by John Elderfield, with additional text by William S. Lieberman and Riva Castleman, is being published October 27 by The Museum of Modern Art on the occasion of its major exhibition of work in the Museum Collection by the great French painter. This important book is a comprehensive and richly illustrated presentation of works by Matisse in the Collection. The Museum of Modern Art has the single most important collection of Matisse's art in public or private hands. Represented here are all periods of the artist's long and varied life, from turn-of-the-century and proto-Fauve paintings to the great cut-outs of Matisse's final years, and all of the different media in which he worked.

The focus of this volume is on the individual works. Reproductions of all of the oil paintings, sculptures and drawings in the Collection and a generous selection of the many prints--a total of 130 illustrations, with 34 in full color--appear in chronological order. Each is accompanied

by an in-depth commentary that illuminates its formal and iconographic aspects. A full catalog of the works follows, with notes and reference illustrations. Citing documents and correspondence only recently made available, these texts contain much new information and some revisions of the previously accepted chronology.

The commentaries and notes on painting and sculptures have been prepared by John Elderfield, Curator of Painting and Sculpture and Director of the exhibition. William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings, has contributed the commentary and notes on drawings; Riva Castleman, Director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, has contributed a section on prints.

Following Alfred H. Barr's now classic study, Matisse: His Art and His Public, first published by the Museum in 1951 and still in print, Matisse in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art is an intellectually ambitious and beautifully produced book that will undoubtedly add to the understanding and appreciation of Matisse. Appearing on the eve of the Museum's 50th Anniversary year, it stands as a tribute to the vision and generosity of the Museum's founders and donors and to the results of half a century of collecting.