

The Museum of Modern Art

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MAJOR LÉGER RETROSPECTIVE OPENS IN FEBRUARY AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

First In-depth Survey of the Artist's Work
To Be Shown in New York City in More than 40 Years

- EXHIBITION** *Fernand Léger*
- DATES** February 15–May 12, 1998
- ORGANIZATION** Organized by Carolyn Lanchner, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art
- CONTENT** The first in-depth survey of the work of Fernand Léger to be shown in New York in more than four decades opens at The Museum of Modern Art on February 15. The only modern artist to choose modernity itself as his subject, Léger's (French, 1881-1955) unique ability to capture the epic quality of everyday experience has earned him a reputation as the painter of the "heroism of modern life." From his early series *Contrastes de formes* (1913–14), the first fully abstract works to emerge from Cubism, through his last realist paintings of construction workers of the early 1950s, Léger's lifelong subject was the pulse and dynamism of contemporary life. Of all the major painters of his generation, Léger was the most adroit negotiator in the century's long quarrel between abstraction and representation.
- This exhibition comprises some 60 paintings and about 25 drawings from all significant periods of Léger's career.
- TRAVEL** *Fernand Léger* is a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art and the Musée national d'art moderne-Centre de création industrielle, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. The exhibition is on view in Paris through September 29, 1997 and will travel to the Museo Nacional, Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (October 28, 1997–January 12, 1998) before coming to MoMA, its final venue. The exhibitions differ considerably in that the MoMA installation will be a selectively chosen retrospective, whereas the Paris and Madrid venues are more comprehensive in presentation.
- PUBLICATION** *Fernand Léger*, by Carolyn Lanchner, with additional essays by Jodi Hauptman and Matthew Affron. This publication has been produced specifically to accompany the exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art.

For further information, contact Mary Lou Strahlendorff, Department of Communications,
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