

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

July 23, 1942

TO Art Editors
City Editors

Dear Sirs:

You are invited to come or send a representative to a

Press Preview of a small group of
New Acquisitions and Extended Loans
by Léger, Picasso, Ernst and others

Tuesday, July 28
2 to 6 P.M.

at the Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street

The paintings will be on view to the public Wednesday, July 29,
in the Museum Collection galleries on the third floor.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Newmeyer

Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

NEW ACQUISITIONS AND LOANS BY PICASSO, VAN GOGH,
ERNST AND OTHERS SHOWN AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces the acquisition of three paintings by contemporary French painters which will be put on public exhibition Wednesday, July 29, in the Museum Collection galleries on the third floor. At the same time the Museum will place on view three extended loans including the famous Night Cafe by van Gogh.

One of the outstanding new acquisitions is the large six by eight foot canvas by Fernand Leger, Three Women, formerly known as Le Grand Dejeuner. This important addition to the Museum Collection was acquired through the Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. First shown at the Museum in the Leger exhibition of 1935, it was subsequently seen in the Cubism and Abstract Art and Art in Our Time exhibitions. This is the fifth work by Leger to enter the Museum Collection, which already contains two oils, a gouache and a drawing by the artist.

Still Life with Cake (1924) by Pablo Picasso, another important acquisition, is one of a series of large brilliantly colored still life compositions painted during the period from 1924 to 1926. The painting, which was included in the Museum's retrospective exhibition, Picasso: Forty Years of his Art, was acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.

The third canvas is by Max Ernst, the German-born painter who worked for many years in France but is now established in this country. The painting, Napoleon in the Wilderness, was done in 1941 after the artist's arrival here, and was included in the one-man show given Ernst by the Valentine Gallery this spring. It has not been shown before at the Museum.

Among the extended loans which have been made anonymously is the celebrated Night Cafe of Vincent van Gogh, painted in Arles in 1888. In one of his letters, van Gogh describes the painting thus: "...I have

tried to express the idea that the café is a place where one can ruin one's self, run mad, or commit a crime. So I have tried to express as it were the powers of darkness in a low drink shop, by soft Louis XV green and malachite, contrasting with yellow green and hard blue greens, and all this in an atmosphere like a devil's furnace, of pale sulphur."

Another anonymous loan is Henri Matisse's Shrimps, painted in 1921. This still life is vigorous and bold in design, characteristic of the work of this period.

Also on exhibition is a carved walking stick of wood belonging to Paul Gauguin which has been lent to the Museum by Adolalde M. de Groot of New York. This cane, carved by Gauguin in the South Seas, is believed to be the one which he presented to Degas when the master came to see Gauguin's exhibition in Paris. Gauguin, overcome by Degas' praise of his work, rushed after him as he left the gallery urging upon him the cane as a memento of the occasion, and under the pretext that it was the master's cane which he had left behind.

The following is a list of the works on exhibition:

Acquisitions

ERNST, Max. German, born 1891. Worked in France. Now in U.S.A.
Napoleon in the Wilderness. (1941). Oil on canvas, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 15"
Acquired by exchange.

LÉGER, Fernand. French, born 1881. Now in U.S.A.
Three Women (Le Grand Déjeuner). 1921. Oil on canvas, 72 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 99"
Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund.

PICASSO, Pablo. Spanish, born 1881. Lives in Paris.
Still Life with a Cake. 1924. Oil on canvas, 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.

Extended Loans

VAN GOGH, Vincent. Dutch, 1857-91. Worked in France.
Night Café. (Arles, September 1888). Oil on canvas, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Lent anonymously.

GAUGUIN, Paul. French, 1848-1903.
Carved walking stick. Wood, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long
Extended loan from Miss Adolalde M. de Groot.

MATISSE, Henri. French, born 1869.
Shrimps. (1921). Oil on canvas, 23 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Lent anonymously.