

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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NEW ACQUISITIONS IN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE ANNOUNCED

BY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Recent Acquisitions: Painting and Sculpture

On Wednesday, September 30, a small group of new acquisitions in European painting and sculpture will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. This follows an exhibition of recent American accessions which closed on Sunday, September 27. Among the new acquisitions are works by three famous French artists, Degas, Derain and Bérard; by an Italian, Modigliani, who did his principal work in France; and by the ex-German, Eric Isenburger, and the Palestinian, Reuven Rubin, both of whom are now in the United States. A sculpture and a drawing by Jacques Lipchitz, now living in the United States, complete the group.

The Modigliani painting Bride and Groom has been given by Frederic Clay Bartlett, noted collector and patron of art, who is an Honorary Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Bartlett's gift comes from his own famous collection which once included Seurat's great masterpiece Le Grande Jatte, given by Mr. Bartlett to the Art Institute of Chicago.

William S. Paley, Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art and President of Columbia Broadcasting Company, is the donor of Dancers, an important pastel by Degas done in the artist's late style which lacks the polish of his earlier periods but vigorously reveals the essential character of his art.

Mrs. Felix M. Warburg has given the Museum Flute Player by Reuven Rubin, who was born in Rumania, studied painting in Paris, and later went to Palestine. Paintings by Rubin are in many English and American collections, and he has had four one-man shows in New York; others in Paris, London and Jerusalem. He is generally considered the foremost painter of Palestine.

Girl with a Cat by Eric Isenburger is the gift of Albert D. Lasker. Isenburger studied in Germany; then lived for a time in Barcelona, Vienna, Berlin and France. He is now a resident and will become a citizen of this country. He has had one-man exhibitions in

Berlin, Paris, Nice, Stockholm and at Knoedler's in New York.

From the Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund have come two of the new acquisitions: a painting by Christian Bérard and a study for sculpture in pastel and gouache by Lipchitz. Mrs. Guggenheim is a Trustee of the Museum and during the past three years has given some of its most important acquisitions.

The acquisitions are as follows:

+ BERARD, Christian. French, born 1902.

Promenade. 1928. Oil on canvas, 16 1/8 x 10 5/8".
Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund

Bérard was one of the leaders of the Neo-Romantic group which included Tchelitchev and Berman and held its first collective exhibition in Paris in 1926. Promenade, painted two years afterward, is one of Bérard's best known early paintings. Though small it well expresses the nostalgic and melancholy poetry so characteristic of the group and so strange in the Paris of fifteen years ago when the noisy Surrealists were contesting the field with the Cubists (just become middle-aged) and the reactionary followers of Derain.

+ DEGAS, Hilaire-Germain-Edgar. French, 1834-1917.

Dancers. (c.1899) Pastel, 37 1/4 x 31 3/4". Gift of William S. Paley

Degas' late style lacks the charm and polished technique of his youthful and middle periods. Yet as is the case with most great masters it is his late work which reveals most directly and vigorously the essential character of his art. In Dancers, done about 1900, all incidental detail is omitted. The figures, drawn with a reckless, slashing line, are posed and placed arbitrarily so that they form a composition of emphatic angles sharpened by color dissonances of orange and violet. In such a work Degas takes his place as a 20th century master paralleling his great contemporaries, Renoir and Cézanne, in their equally radical studies of form.

+ DERAINE, André. French, born 1880.

Head of a Woman. (c.1906) Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 x 23 5/8". Given anonymously

Painted at about the time Derain was turning from the wild color of his earlier "fauve" work toward a more sober style. The flat surfaces and bold heavy outlines are still fauve in character and show the influence of his mentor Henri Matisse.

+ ISENBURGER, Eric. German, born 1902. Now in U.S.A.

Girl with a Cat. 1939. Oil on canvas, 39 5/8 x 32".
Gift of Albert D. Lasker

Isenburger first studied painting in Germany. To Barcelona (1925), then to Vienna, Berlin, France (1934-41). To New York in 1941 after leaving a concentration camp in France. Has taken out his first papers. Has had one-man shows in Berlin, Paris, Nice, Stockholm and New York (Knoedler's, 1941).

LIPCHITZ, Jacques. French, born Lithuania 1891.
Worked for many years in Paris. Now in New York.

- * Rape of Europa II. (1938) Bronze, 23 1/8" long.
Given anonymously

- † Study for Sculpture, Rape of Europa IV. 1941.
Pastel and gouache, 26 x 20". Mrs. Simon
Guggenheim Fund

Lipchitz, who for years was the most powerful of the Cubist sculptors, has during the last decade developed a style of emotional warmth and vigorous baroque movement. The Rape of Europa II is one of his most admired recent works. The same subject in an entirely different composition is treated in the large gouache study for Rape of Europa IV.

- * MODIGLIANI, Amedeo. Italian, 1884-1920. Worked in France.

Bride and Groom. (1915-16) Oil on canvas, 21 3/4 x 18 1/4". Gift of Frederic Clay Bartlett

Modigliani is best known for his statuesque portraits and severely sinuous nudes but he had also a less formal side which is wittily expressed in the Bride and Groom.

- * RUBIN, Reuven. Palestinian, born Rumania 1893.
Now in U.S.A.

Flute Player. (1938) Oil on canvas, 32 x 25 5/8".
Gift of Mrs. Felix M. Warburg

Rubin studied painting in Paris about 1912. Then he was successively a leather worker, corn merchant and fur dealer. His first success in painting came after the first World War. Since 1922 he has lived at Tel Aviv in Palestine. He has had four one-man shows in New York, the first in 1921; others in Paris, London, Jerusalem. Generally considered the foremost painter of Palestine his paintings are in many English and American collections.

(Notes by Alfred H. Barr, Jr.)