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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR RELEASE Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning,  
November 17, or 18, 1934.

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces its Fifth Anniversary Exhibition to open to the public on Tuesday, November 20. There will be a private preview and reception for members of the Museum and their friends Monday night, November 19. The entire Museum will be devoted to the Exhibition of modern painting, sculpture, architectural models, and industrial art. Many of the works of art exhibited are of such importance and quality as to be worthy of a place in the Permanent Collection of the Museum.

As the Exhibition celebrates the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Museum of Modern Art, Mr. A. Conger Goodyear, its President, issued a statement today briefly reviewing its inception, founding, aims and achievements.

"In the early months of 1913, " Mr. Goodyear said, "there was held in New York City the celebrated Armory Show where the Descending Nude aroused the resentment of conventional critics, and the paintings and sculpture of Picasso and Matisse and Brancusi and their fellows first met the troubled gaze of the New York public. It was the dream of Arthur B. Davies, Walt Kuhn, and those associated with them in organizing that great exhibition that there would be established here a museum of art that should confine its activities to the art of today and its sources, avoiding the role of historical repository that is a proper function of most museums.

Sixteen years later, in the year of Arthur B. Davies' death, The Museum of Modern Art was founded. The actual beginning of the Museum is to be credited to the interest and energy of Miss Lillie P. Bliss, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Mrs. Cornelius J. Sullivan. In the early part of 1929 they decided that the time had come to make the Museum a reality.

In January a committee of seven undertook the work of organization. In addition to the three ladies mentioned, the committee included Mrs. W. Murray Crane, Mr. Frank Crowninshield, Mr. Paul J. Sachs, and myself. Temporary galleries were leased at 730 Fifth Avenue, and the necessary alterations made to meet our requirements.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr. became Director of the Museum. Subscriptions were obtained in amount sufficient to insure the carrying on of the Museum's activities for at least three years.

For our debut we decided on an exhibition of the work of Cézanne, Seurat, Gauguin, and van Gogh, the founders and prophets of the modern movement in art. Collectors, museums, and dealers in many cities of this country and in England, France, and Germany responded generously to our request for loans.

We may admit that exhibition was a success. One critic called it "too good to be true"; another, "an adventure and a thrilling one"; a third, "an instant and overwhelming success!" For once there was no discordant note in the chorus of criticism. We may admit, too, that this first exhibition in many respects set a standard which it has not always been possible to reach in its thirty-four successors during the five years that followed.

But, on the whole, we may point with pride to a succession of shows that attracted an attendance of nearly one million persons, a great deal of favorable comment, and a reasonable amount of healthy controversy. To those who have understood that certain of these exhibitions were in reality laboratory experiments, even the failures that enjoyed the heartiest condemnation of the critics had a value.

The stated purposes of the Trustees at the beginning of our activities were to conduct a series of temporary exhibitions, to acquire a building for a permanent home, and to establish a permanent collection.

To the first purpose there have been thirty-five fulfillments. In May, 1932 we opened to the public the building we now occupy. In March, 1934, we received from the Trustees of the Estate of Miss Bliss the collection of pictures and other works of art left to us by her, conditionally, three years before. To qualify for this bequest an Endowment Fund of over \$600,000 was attained in a short campaign without public appeal.

We may, and we do, point with pride, but in that pride we hope to avoid the traditional fall by recognizing the many unsolved problems and the untilled and partially cultivated fields before us. As yet we are as small in stature as befits our years. One day our physical growth should cease with maturity. In all other respects

we must increase while there shall be life in us.

Artists whose paintings will be shown in the Exhibitions are Cézanne, Gauguin, van Gogh, Redon, Rousseau, Seurat, Signac, Toulouse-Lautrec, Balla, Bauer, Beckmann, Bellows, Benton, Bérard, Berman, Blume, Bonnard, Braque, Brook, Burchfield, Campigli, Canadé, Chagall, Charlot, de Chirico, Coleman, Dali, Davies, Davis, Demuth, Derain, Dickinson, Dix, Dreier, Dufy, Eilshemius, Ernst, Friedman, Friesz, Gris, Grosz, Hart, Hartley, Hiler, Hofer, Hopper, Kandinsky, Kane, Karfiol, Klee, Kopman, Kokoschka, Kuhn, Kuniyoshi, Léger, Lurcat, McFee, Marc, Marin, Masson, Matisse, Mauny, Miro, Modigliani, Mondrian, Nolde, O'Keeffe, Orozco, Pascin, Picasso, Prendergast, Rivera, Rouault, Roy, Schwitters, Segonzac, Shahn, Sheeler, Siqueiros, Sterne, Stettheimer, Utrillo, Vuillard, Weber, Wood.

Sculptors whose work will be represented are Archipenko, Arp, Barlach, Belling, Ben-Shmuel, Brancusi, Calder, Despiou, Duchamp, Duchamp-Villon, Epstein, Flannagan, Gargallo, Haller, Kolbe, Lachaise, Laurent, Lehmbruck, Lipchitz, Maillol, Mataré, Matisse, Nakian, Noguchi, Pevsner, Sterne, Zorach.

The Exhibition has been selected from the following collections in New York: the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Askew, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Bakwin, Mr. James W. Barney, Mr. Rudolph Belling, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander M. Bing, Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, Miss Mabel Choate, Mr. Stephen C. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Erich Cohn, Mrs. W. Murray Crane, Mr. Frank Crowninshield, Mr. John A. Dunbar, Mr. A.E. Gallatin, Mr. George Gershwin, Mr. Philip Goodwin, Mr. A. Conger Goodyear, Mrs. Marie Harriman, Dr. F.H. Hirschland, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hochschild, Mrs. O'Donnell Iselin, Mr. Sidney Janis, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Mr. T. Catesby Jones, Mr. Adolph Lewisohn, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Lewisohn, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Liebman, <sup>Mrs. May</sup> Mr. George L.K. Morris, Mrs. James B. Murphy, Mr. J.B. Neumann, Mr. J.R. Oppenheimer, Mrs. Frances Flynn Paine, Mrs. Frances M. Pollak, Baroness Hilla von Rebay, Mrs. Stanley Resor, Mr. Elmer Rice, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mr. Albert Rothbart, Mrs. Charles H. Russell, Jr., Mr. Wolfgang S. Schwabacher, Mr. Manfred Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. Lesley Green Sheaffer, Miss Florine Stettheimer, The Estate of Cornelius J. Sullivan, Mrs. Cornelius J. Sullivan, Mr. James Johnson-Sweeney, Mr. Edward M.M. Warburg, and from the collection of Mr. Giacomo Balla of Rome, Miss Katherine Dreier of West Redding, Conn., Mr. and Mrs. Solomon R.

Guggenheim of Port Washington, Mrs. Sadie A. May of Baltimore and Paris, Mrs. Nathan J. Miller of New Rochelle, Mr. Paul Rosenberg of Paris, Mr. Max Weber of Great Neck, and from the following New York galleries: An American Place, Delphic Studios, The Downtown Gallery, Ferargil Galleries, Kraushaar Galleries, Julien Levy Gallery, Pierre Matisse Gallery, Valentine Gallery, Weyhe Gallery, Frank K.M. Rehn Gallery.

The Fifth Anniversary Exhibition will be open to the public from Tuesday, November 20, 1934, through Tuesday, January 22, 1935.