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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO OPEN THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that it will open three new exhibitions to the public Wednesday, April 3: Travelling Exhibitions of Contemporary American Art, arranged by the Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with the W.P.A.; The Work of Sharaku; and Designs for Abstract Films.

The Travelling Exhibitions of Contemporary American Art are the result of a collaboration between the Museum and the W.P.A. Art Program, in which a selection from the most distinguished paintings done throughout the United States on the Art Projects will be combined with paintings in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art to form a group of travelling shows. A dozen of the Museum's new American acquisitions will be included in the exhibition.

The exhibition of Sharaku prints includes almost all the extant works of that artist. The number of his prints known to exist in the world today are only one hundred and thirty-six. The exhibition will show 108 of these and photographs of the remaining 28. Little is known of the life and art of this 18th century Japanese print maker who now is universally acclaimed a master artist. The generally accepted facts are these: Sharaku was a No, or ceremonial, dancer in the service of a feudal lord of Tokyo. For ten months during the year 1794 he made a great number of brilliant satirical prints--masterly portraits of Japanese actors in the bourgeois theatre of the time. Previous to his ten months' activity as an artist he is not known to have made any prints, nor is there any record of prints made by him after the ten months' period.

Neglected for almost two hundred years, Sharaku's work began to draw the attention of Occidental art lovers early in the

twentieth century. His prints became eagerly sought after and several important collections now exist. It is from those collections that the present exhibition is drawn. It has been assembled by Louis V. Ledoux, who is co-author with Harold G. Henderson of the superbly illustrated book The Surviving Works of Sharaku, which will serve as a catalog of the exhibition. In this book, for the first time, plots of the plays which the prints illustrate are given, and many roles, hitherto unidentified, are described.

The Exhibition of Designs for Abstract Films has been assembled by Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library. The designs in the exhibition are by Leopold Survage, Douglass Crockwell, Mary Ellen Bute and Ted Nemeth, Howard Lester, Horace Pierce. All the artists except Survage are American and their designs were done during the last five years.