

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PUBLIC TO AWARD LARGEST PRIZE IN UNIQUE EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The public, not the jury, will award the largest prize in the competition sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art and P M, New York's forthcoming evening newspaper, in a search for artists who can report the news with brush or pen. From the 1,926 pictures entered in the competition approximately 200 have been selected for the exhibition The Artist As Reporter which will open to the public Wednesday, April 17, at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. To insure a vote that will be without personal bias the pictures will be hung "blind," or without the artists' names.

The jury also voted its awards in this fashion without knowing the names of the artists to whose pictures they gave prizes. The prize-winning drawings selected by the jury will be hung without identification among the other drawings. The picture which receives the greatest number of votes in the public balloting will be awarded a prize of \$250. Jury-given awards total another \$1,500.

An unusual feature of the exhibition is that the jury felt compelled by the high level of excellence among the best of the pictures, to split the announced first prize of \$500. into five first prizes of \$100. each. All the members of the jury--John Sloan, Chairman; William Gropper, Wallace Morgan, Holger Cahill and Ralph McA. Ingersoll, publisher of P M, concurred in Mr. Sloan's statement of the reason for splitting the first prize. Mr. Sloan said:

"The cream of the competition was so rich that to select as first prize a single picture among the four or five we considered best would have been unfair. In addition, by giving five first prizes instead of one we increased every competitor's chance of winning a prize. The extremely high level of the best two dozen or more of the pictures made this, in our opinion, the only fair and by far the most democratic procedure. The

three artists on the jury all felt individually that had they been contestants they would have preferred this procedure."

In addition to the five \$100. first prizes and the \$250. public award, there will be twenty \$50. prizes, making a total of \$1,750. to be distributed among twenty-six prize winners. The public will have two weeks in which to vote for their choice. The balloting will close April 30 and the prize winners will be announced late that day and their names and the names of all the other artists in the exhibition will be inserted after the titles of their pictures on display. The exhibition will remain on view one week after the prize winners are announced, and will close May 7.