

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES HEROIC STATUE OF CHRIST SCULPTURED IN WOOD BY BRAZILIAN ARTIST

A heroic figure of Christ nearly eight feet high, sculptured in jacaranda wood by the Brazilian artist Maria (Maria Martins), has been presented to the Museum of Modern Art by Nelson A. Rockefeller, former president of the Museum. The sculpture, chiseled from a log of jacaranda, a Brazilian wood rich brown in color and of great weight and hardness, will be put on public exhibition Tuesday, January 13, in the first floor gallery of the Museum which leads to the garden.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum, comments on the new acquisition as follows:

"The Christ, by the Brazilian sculptress Maria, is an imposing figure of heroic size and heroic mood. Rather than the gentle figure of meekness and humility so frequently portrayed by conventional religious artists the sculptress has carved a Christ towering with wrath, his clenched fists meeting above his head in a gesture of furious righteousness. The artist has vigorously expressed the words from the Gospel of St. Matthew carved in Latin across the base: 'Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!'"

The Museum will also place on exhibition Tuesday, January 13, other Latin-American acquisitions, including works by the three well known Mexican painters, Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, and the distinguished Brazilian painter, Candido Portinari. In addition to the paintings are eleven recently acquired drawings by Rivera and Orozco, the gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

The two paintings by Orozco are the gift of an anonymous Trustee. The Siqueiros Echo of a Scream is presented to the Museum by Edward M. M. Warburg and one of the Portinari drawings by Sam A. Lewisohn. The Siqueiros Ethnography, Portinari's large canvas, Scarecrow, and the gouache, Mother and Child by the young Cuban artist, Wilfredo Lam, are all acquired through the Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

The paintings will be shown in the New Acquisitions Gallery on the first floor; the Mexican drawings in the Graphic Arts Gallery on the third floor.

Mr. Barr further commented on the new acquisitions as follows:

"Orozco's Peace and The Cemetery with their quiet composition and elegiac mood contrast strikingly with

the black, brutal violence of Siqueiros' two duco panels. Among the eleven drawings by Rivera and Orozco are several studies for the mural paintings of the 1920's, works which made these two artists renowned as the leaders of the Mexican Renaissance.

"Portinari's Scarecrow is generally considered his best work of 1940. It was purchased at the end of the artist's one-man show held at the Museum in the fall of that year. Picasso was chiefly responsible for the recognition of Wilfredo Lam whose Mother and Child is the first work by a Cuban artist to enter the Museum Collection.

"With these new acquisitions the Museum now has beyond much question the most comprehensive collection of the work of the three foremost Mexican artists. By Orozco the Museum now owns a fresco, Dive Bomber and Tank, five canvases, two drawings and many lithographs; by Rivera the fresco Zapata, three oils, ten drawings and numerous watercolors and prints; by Siqueiros five large paintings and several prints."

The Photography Department of the Museum will also open to the public on January 13 recent acquisitions of photographs by Man Ray, Ansel Adams, Eugene Atget and others.

On the same day, Tuesday, January 13, the Dance Archives of the Museum will open a loan exhibition of fifty speed photographs by Gjon Mili under the general title of Dance in Movement. These are not acquisitions. The exhibition, Dance in Movement, will be on view through March 1. The new acquisitions in painting and sculpture and photography will be on exhibition indefinitely.

The new acquisitions in sculpture and painting are as follows:

Sculpture:

MARIA (Maria MARTINS), Brazilian.

Christ. Jacaranda wood, 7'10½" high 23" wide, 19½" deep.
Gift of Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Maria (Maria Martins) was born in Minas Geraes, Brazil. At first she studied music with the intention of becoming a concert pianist but soon turned to drawing and painting, studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro and later in Paris and Belgium. Her masters in sculpture were Barjanski and Jespers. Although she works in bronze and terracotta she prefers to use the various Brazilian woods which she carves in spite of their extreme hardness. Madame Martins, who works as a sculptress under the name Maria, recently had a one-man show of her sculpture at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington.

Paintings:

SIQUEIROS, David Alfaro. Mexican, born 1894.

Echo of a Scream. 1937. Duco on wood, 47 7/8 x 35 7/8"
Gift of Edward M. M. Warburg

Ethnography. (1939) Duco on masonite, 48 1/8 x 32 3/8"
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

PORTINARI, Candido. Brazilian, born 1903

Scarecrow. 1940. Oil on canvas, 51½ x 64"
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund
(previously announced)

OROZCO, José Clemente. Mexican, born 1883.

The Cemetery. (1931) Oil on canvas, 27 x 39 7/8"
Given anonymously

Peace. (1930) Oil on canvas, 30 1/4 x 48 1/4"
Given anonymously

LAM, Wilfredo. Cuban, born 1902.

Mother and Child. 1939. Gouache, 41 x 29 1/4"
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

Wilfredo Lam (Lam-Castilla) was born in 1902 at Sagua-la-Grande, Cuba, of a Chinese father and a mulatto mother. In 1921 his native town gave him a purse to study at the Academy in Havana. In 1925 he received a government grant for study in Spain but soon after the unacademic spirit of his work cost him official support. For years he lived in poverty in Spain. In 1938 he went to Paris where he became a protégé of Picasso and was given a one-man show in Paris in 1939 at Pierre Loeb's Gallery and in New York in 1940 at the Perls Gallery. In 1941 he returned to Cuba.

Drawings:

RIVERA, Diego. Mexican, born 1886.

Gifts of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.:

Day of the Dead in the Country. Composition study for fresco in Ministry of Education, Mexico City. 1925.
Charcoal and colored crayon on paper, 16 1/2 x 8 7/8".

Nude with Braided Hair. Figure study for fresco, Fecund Earth, Chapel of the National Agricultural School, Chapingo. 1925. Pencil, 13 7/8 x 20 7/8".

Two Figures. Study for ceiling fresco, Chapel of the National Agricultural School, Chapingo. About 1925. Red and black chalk and white wash, 7 x 9".

Woman with Two Children. Study (apparently not used) for ceiling fresco, Chapel of the National Agricultural School, Chapingo. About 1925. Red and black chalk, 7 x 9".

Mother and Child. 1926. Pencil and ink wash, 25 3/8 x 18 5/8".

Group of Peasants, Apizaco, Puebla. 1928. Charcoal on paper 12 3/4 x 18 5/8".

The Desert. Pencil, 12 3/4 x 18 1/2"

Palms and Dwellings. Charcoal, 18 5/8 x 12 1/2"

Building the Palace of Cortes. Composition study for the fresco in the Palace of Cortes, Cuernavaca. 1930. Pencil, 17 5/8 x 10 1/2".

OROZCO, José Clemente. Mexican, born 1883.

Gifts of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.:

Feet (No. 2). Study for the fresco, Destruction of the Old Order, National Preparatory School, Mexico City. 1923. Charcoal, 10 3/4 x 17"

Male Torso. Study for the fresco, Cortes and Malintzin, National Preparatory School, Mexico City. 1923. Charcoal on paper, 23 3/4 x 18".

PORTINARI, Candido. Brazilian, born 1903.

Fishermen. 1940. Oil on paper, 25 3/4 x 19 5/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

Girl and Child. 1940. Oil on paper, 25 3/4 x 19 5/8".
Gift of Sam A. Lewisohn.