

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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LARGE EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE BY YOUNG AMERICAN ARTISTS
FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY OPENS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Americans 1942, 18 Artists from 9 States, an exhibition composed of approximately two hundred paintings and sculptures, opens at the Museum of Modern Art Wednesday, January 21, where it will remain on view through March 8. A large part of it will then be circulated to other museums and art galleries throughout the country.

The exhibition has been directed by Dorothy C. Miller, Associate Curator of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, who spent several months last summer traveling over the country in search of the best work of artists, many of them little known--in some cases entirely unknown--to the New York art world. Miss Miller has also edited and written the foreword to the catalog which the Museum will publish simultaneously with the exhibition. The catalog, 128 pages, is illustrated by 123 halftone reproductions of the artists' work. Biographies of the artists, many of them written by the artists themselves, are included. Bound in boards, the catalog will sell for \$2.00, in paper \$1.00.

In the foreword Miss Miller writes in part as follows:

"New York artists and the New York public will make the acquaintance in this show of at least two painters whose names and pictures are unknown to them. Several others, though not complete strangers, have never had a one-man exhibition in New York. Of the rest, some are newcomers who have made their mark in the last year or two, others have been showing for some years but have never been well known in the east.

"Most of them have studied and worked in towns far removed from the art centers of the Atlantic seaboard--some, in fact, have never been in the east. They come from Texas, California, Oregon, Washington, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts--and these are only a few of the States where one may discover high talent and sound training in the arts....

"Younger artists predominate and their recent work has been favored. Five of the men are past forty but the average age of the eighteen artists is thirty-five. The average date of the works in the exhibition is 1939. Succeeding shows of the series will follow the development not only of the younger artists but also that of our older and better known painters and sculptors who must not be lost sight of in our enthusiasm for new discoveries and youthful promise.

"Americans 1942 covers a wide geographical range but the range of the work itself is even wider. Omnibus terms such as American scene, social comment, neo-romanticism, surrealism, and abstraction might be used to describe it, but much of it cannot be fitted into these categories. ... All this is possible only in the liberty which our democracy gives to the artist. No regimentations, no compulsions or restrictions could call forth such richly various expressions of a people's creative spirit."

Americans 1942 is the first of a series of exhibitions which the Museum plans to hold annually to show the work of artists of the United States. Although the exhibition this year excludes the work of artists closely identified with New York, succeeding shows in the series will not be limited in this way. These annuals will be not merely large group exhibitions, but will give each participating artist, in effect, a small one-man show. For that reason, Americans 1942 presents the work of eighteen artists from nine states. The artists whose works are shown in the exhibition are:

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles: Emma Lu Davis
Helen Lundeborg
Knud Merrild

San Diego: Donal Hord
San Francisco: Charles Howard
Santa Barbara: Rico Lebrun

ILLINOIS

Chicago: Raymond Breinin
Francis Chapin
Mitchell Siporin

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston: Hyman Bloom
Jack Levine

MICHIGAN

Detroit: Samuel Cashwan

MISSOURI

Kansas City: Fletcher Martin

OREGON

Portland: Darrel Austin

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia: Joseph Hirsch

TEXAS

Austin: Everett Spruce
Denton: Octavio Medellin

WASHINGTON

Seattle: Morris Graves