

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOURTEEN VAN GOGH PAINTINGS TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
FOR THREE WEEKS

On Friday, August 3, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will open to the public a small exhibition of fourteen oils by Vincent van Gogh to be on view in the auditorium galleries through Sunday, August 26. All of these paintings are owned by the artist's nephew and namesake, Vincent Willem van Gogh, an engineer formerly of The Hague. It is not known whether or not this is his present residence or even if he is still alive.

The fourteen paintings were selected by the Netherlands Government to be brought to the United States for the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco in 1939. After that they were shown in New York in Holland House at 10 Rockefeller Plaza during the month of June 1940. They then toured the various major cities in this country and during that time formed part of the large van Gogh exhibition held at the Wildenstein Galleries during October and November 1943. They have just returned from Canada, where they were shown in Quebec and Toronto.

The pictures to be shown are:

1. VAN GOGH'S HOUSE AT ARLES
2. EVENING
3. FIELD UNDER A STORMY SKY
4. SEASCAPE
5. WHEATFIELDS (with Skylark)
6. GARDEN OF DAUBIGNY
7. SELF-PORTRAIT
8. CYPRESSES
9. FARM IN SUMMER
10. FLOWERING ALMOND BRANCH
11. THE REAPER
12. LANDSCAPE WITH RABBITS
13. STILL LIFE: FLOWERS (Thistles and Wild Carnations)
14. STILL LIFE: POTATOES

This small exhibition is the third the Museum of Modern Art has held of van Gogh's works. In its opening show First Loan Exhibition: Cézanne, Gauguin, Seurat, van Gogh, November-December 1929, the Dutch artist was presented in this country for the first time by an adequate number of paintings. A comprehensive van Gogh exhibition was held by the Museum November 1935-January 1936 and then was sent to eight other large cities in this country and to Toronto, Canada. It returned to the Museum in January 1937 for a

final three-weeks' showing. Attendance in New York (142,341) and throughout the country totalled 886,631. Fifty or more cities had to be disappointed in their desire to show the exhibition because the pictures were due back in Holland. The Museum has at various times included one or more paintings by van Gogh in its group exhibitions, and owns one of his most important oils, The Starry Night.

The owner of the paintings was born a few months before his Uncle Vincent van Gogh committed suicide in fear of a recurrence of the mental attacks which started a year-and-a-half before his death. He is referred to as "the little one" in the painter's numerous letters to his brother Theo. Theo, who had sustained his painter brother in health and illness through ten years, died shortly afterward, broken by worry, exhaustion and sorrow. Theo's widow, Mevrouw Johanna Gesina van Gogh-Bonger, moved from Paris with the little Vincent Willem back to Holland with 200 pictures by Vincent van Gogh which "were then considered a worthless inheritance" as her son reported. "Pressure was brought upon my mother from more than one quarter to destroy them, but she steadily refused," he said.

Like her late husband, Mevrouw van Gogh-Bonger kept faith in Vincent's greatness and made it her life task to bring recognition to his work. When she died in 1925, leaving the pictures to her son, van Gogh had become recognized all over the world as one of the great painters of the modern age. When Mevrouw van Gogh-Bonger inherited the pictures, they were evaluated at 10 guilders (\$4.50) apiece. Today, a thousand times that evaluation is not unusual for a single major van Gogh painting.