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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT LARGE SELECTION OF ITALIAN 20TH-CENTURY ART

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will inaugurate on June 28 the first showing in America of a large exhibition of Italian 20th-century art. It will be open to the public from June 29 to September 11 and will present painting, sculpture and graphic works from de Chirico, Modigliani and Boccioni down to the present day. Much of the work will be shown here for the first time.

The exhibition is the result of a trip to Italy last summer of James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, and Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections, who made a careful study of contemporary Italian art. In the catalog to be published by the Museum in connection with the exhibition, Mr. Soby states: "The climate for art is propitious in Italy just now with the shackles of Fascist isolationism rusting empty on the ground, and we have sought ... without claim to finality to indicate what directions the newer creative impetus is taking."

Twentieth-century Italian art has produced two major movements, Futurism (1909-15) and the "Metaphysical School" (1915-21), which have made vital contributions to the international mainstream of art in our time. These two movements will be comprehensively represented in the forthcoming exhibition. A wide selection of art produced by leaders of the older and middle generation will be shown, work by men who have not been associated with the two movements mentioned above or who in later years have turned away from them. A large section of the exhibition will be devoted to artists who have attained national and occasionally international prominence chiefly during and since the war, many of whom were very active in the Resistance movement.

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