

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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"ABSTRACT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN AMERICA"

TO FORM LARGE EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM

A large historical survey of one of the most controversial movements in modern American art - abstract painting and sculpture - will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from January 24 through March 25 on the third floor.

ABSTRACT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN AMERICA will include more than 100 paintings and sculptures by about 85 artists selected by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture. The exhibition will cover the period from just before the famous Armory Show of 1913 to the present. Although limited by the Museum space available and the long period of time covered, enough distinctive examples of abstract painting and sculpture will be shown to give the visitor an appreciation of the variety and extent of this 20th-century form of art in the United States.

In his preface to the book which will accompany the exhibition, Mr. Ritchie points out that in his selections he is emphasizing the more extreme directions of the abstract movement so that the observer may better judge its validity.

Like other Museum exhibitions concerned with a particular movement, such as "Romantic Painting in America" (1943) or "Realists and Magic Realists" (1943), ABSTRACT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN AMERICA is being presented as a review in both a historical and contemporary sense. From the Armory Show generation the work of Stella, Russell, Macdonald-Wright, Marin, Weber, Man Ray, Hartley, Schamberg, Feininger and others will be represented. About half the works of art to be shown were produced in the past decade.

Mr. Ritchie's book, "Abstract Painting and Sculpture in America," is the most comprehensive study of the subject to date. It contains reproductions of virtually every work to appear in the exhibition, 105 illustrations in all, 8 of them in color; a catalog of the exhibition, and an extensive bibliography.

A symposium on Abstract Art in America will be conducted by the Museum on February 5.