

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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For Release

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Fifty modern paintings and sculptures, including works by Cézanne, Braque and Picasso, expected to bring more than three-quarters of a million dollars at a public auction for the benefit of the Museum of Modern Art's 30th Anniversary Fund, will be on view at the Parke-Bernet Galleries from April 23 through April 26. Admission fee to the exhibition, which also benefits the Museum Fund, is \$1.00.

Well known private collectors, individual artists and American and European dealers have donated these works for the benefit sale which will be held at Parke-Bernet Wednesday evening, April 27. Through a closed-circuit coast-to-coast TV network provided by Theatre Network Television (TNT), buyers in Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles will participate in the bidding along with a capacity audience in New York City. This will be the first art auction ever conducted on a closed-circuit TV network.

The most valuable painting in the sale is a Cézanne still-life, Apples (1879-82), donated by William A. M. Burden, United States Ambassador to Belgium. Other important works on view include: Composition: The Violin, a 1913 cubist oil by Georges Braque donated by New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller; Deux Femmes, a classic period pastel by Picasso donated by the Thannhauser Foundation, Inc., and Femme au Chemise Bleu, a 1906 oil by Renoir donated by Hillman Periodicals, Inc. Birds, a still-life painted by Cézanne in 1873, was formerly owned by the famous Dr. Paul Gachet who was van Gogh's physician at the end of his life. It has been given for the auction by Wildenstein and Co., Inc. A 1930 composition by Braque, Profiles, is from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bareiss. Grand Portrait: Profil de Femme, a 1949 oil by Picasso, was donated by Mrs. Albert D. Lasker.

Other highlights of the exhibition and sale include a brilliant early Matisse given by Sam Salz, a Gris still-life from the collection of Larry Aldrich and a 1932 Léger which has never before been exhibited or reproduced.

Six European artists contributed works from their own collections. Miro donated an abstract oil, dated 1934, also never shown or reproduced which he had been keeping for himself. Henry Moore sent a bronze, 18 1/2 by 42 inches, called Three Motives Against a Wall. Dubuffet donated a large, richly surfaced collage of aluminum foil tinted with oil, on masonite, one of a series called "Matériologies" on which he is currently engaged.

Jean (Hans) Arp contributed a bronze sculpture, Self Absorbed, similar to a marble version shown in the Museum of Modern Art's recent retrospective of his work.

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Marino Marini has donated a sculpture called Small Miracle. Giacometti sent an elongated bronze figure of a girl which has been exhibited in New York and London. Among important postwar paintings from Paris are large impressive canvases by Mathieu, Hartung, Soulages and Tal Coat. The Chilian artist, Matta, who has been working in Europe, is represented by a 1955 oil. Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, Paris dealer and critic, has donated a recent work by Andre Masson. Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Heinz II have contributed a 1947 painting by the Mexican artist Tamayo called Constelacion. An important early Dubuffet, a large 1944 oil from his Jazz series, has been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Matisse.

Two works by Jawlensky, a 1930 Kandinsky, and a Klee watercolor, pen and ink are also included. A Maillol bronze, of which the Museum of Modern Art owns a cast, has been donated by Fine Arts Associates. David Rockefeller has given a Chagall, Acrobat on a White Horse.

Watercolors in the exhibition and sale include Une Horrible Douleur by Picabia, dated 1914, Red House, executed by Emile Nolde about 1920, and Bathers, St. Malo (1909) by the American artist Maurice Prendergast. Other American paintings are a figure study by Pascin, a romantic landscape by Eilshemius and a sensitive abstract composition by Arshile Gorky.

The exhibition at Parke-Bernet will be open on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., on Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. and on Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Tuesday the galleries will be open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. There will be no exhibition the day of the sale because TV equipment will have to be installed then.

Admission to the sale, which starts at 8:30 EDT, is by card only for the main salesroom and for the two TV rooms being set up at Parke-Bernet. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III, President of the Museum, will speak over the closed-circuit network and welcome an audience of about 3,500 people in Dallas, Los Angeles and Chicago as well as a capacity audience in New York.

In Los Angeles the sale will be conducted at the Los Angeles County Museum, in Chicago at the Arts Club of Chicago, and in Dallas, where it is under the sponsorship of the Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts, it will be held in the Preston Royal Theater.

Giant television screens, hundreds of feet square, will permit the audiences in each of these cities to bid. Assistant auctioneers sent from the Parke-Bernet Galleries will call the bids in each salesroom. Buyers in all four cities will hear all the auctioneers. Chief Auctioneer Louis J. Marion, who will conduct the sale in Parke-Bernet's main salesroom in New York, will clear with each city before he drops the hammer.

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A special new audio transmission system conceived and developed by TNT will permit a higher standard of inter-city voice clarity and will enable auctioneers in each city to be heard at all times without preliminary switching.

The Museum of Modern Art's 30th Anniversary Fund, which the sale will benefit, was announced last November. It aims at \$25,000,000 for endowment, program and new buildings. More than \$10,000,000 has been contributed so far.

The auction has been arranged by a special committee headed by Mrs. Louise R. Smith and Mrs. E. Powis Jones. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, selected the works in the auction from those offered to the Museum for the sale.

Nathan L. Halpern, President of TNT, developed the plan for this first national closed-circuit art auction after providing local art auction closed-circuit overflow facilities at the Parke-Bernet Galleries on several occasions.

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For catalogs, photographs and additional information, please call or write Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, N.Y.C. CI 5-8900.

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