

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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THE MRS. ADELE R. LEVY COLLECTION FROM DEGAS TO PICASSO - A MEMORIAL EXHIBITION -

The Mrs. Adele R. Levy Collection, will be shown as a memorial exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art from June 9 through July 16. Bequeathed by the late art patron to individuals and museums throughout the country, the paintings ranging from Degas to Picasso have been reassembled for the exhibition at the Museum of which Mrs. Levy was a trustee for 20 years and had served as first Vice President since 1946.

Superb examples of work by most of the great French masters of the late 19th century, particularly Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Gauguin, Seurat, van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec are included. Braque, Marin, Matisse and Picasso are also shown in exceptionally fine canvases. Among other artists represented are Bonnard, Fantin-Latour, Manet, Redon, Rouault and Segonzac.

In addition to four masterpieces of French painting which Mrs. Levy gave to the Museum of Modern Art in 1957 and which were exhibited earlier this winter, she bequeathed a fifth of exceptional quality, Picasso's Violin and Grapes which is also shown now. "The Picasso, a cubist work of 1912, was, in style, the most modern painting in Mrs. Levy's collection," Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Collections says in the exhibition catalog. "Her taste was, as this exhibition demonstrates, conservative. In her own collection she did not follow the vanguard of the past fifty years but never at any moment did she question the propriety, indeed the necessity, of the Museum's doing so. That very necessity makes all the more valuable, particularly to the Museum of Modern Art, those classic works which will remain in the Museum Collection after this exhibition is over."

Among the paintings returning to New York for the exhibition are Cézanne's Cherries and Peaches from the Los Angeles County Museum and Gauguin's Under the Pandanus Tree from the Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has lent van Gogh's Purple Iris. Other paintings in the exhibition are now owned by individuals or by the Adele R. Levy Fund, Inc., excepting Renoir's Madame Henriot, given to the National Gallery, Washington, D.C., but not lent to the exhibition.

In the catalog Dr. Alfred M. Frankfurter, well-known critic and editor, describes the care, study and love with which Mrs. Levy and her husband, Dr. David M. Levy formed the collection. "She and her husband began to acquire these pictures more than a quarter of a century ago, a little before the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists

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had quite become the fantastically expensive darlings of fashion they are nowadays. Since the last war the element of free choice has all but disappeared from the collecting of this period, and the chronicle of latter-day collections is likely to become a record of merely fortuitous buys and daring bids at international auctions rather than of intensely personal taste."

Dr. Frankfurter continues by describing the three-man jury for her collection which Mrs. Levy formed, consisting of herself, her husband and Dr. Frankfurter. Unanimity was required for purchase.

"The plan for unanimous three-man approval worked very well over two decades.... Dr. Levy at Harvard had taken Arthur Pope's art courses; also he was taught to sketch by his brother, a painter. His opinions, influenced by these experiences, were also affected by scientific reasoning, relating to his work in psychology and psychiatry, and all too rare in the art world....

"The genus collector has many species; one likes to think that Mrs. Levy's is the kind Cézanne, Degas and other artists represented here would have chosen as an ideal custodian of their work."

The catalog also contains a tribute to Mrs. Levy's many services to the Museum and her deep interest in the program and in the staff by Blanchette R. Rockefeller, President.

For photographs and additional information contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director,
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REVIEW COPY

THE MRS. ADELE R. LEVY COLLECTION. A Memorial Exhibition. Prefaces by Blanchette H. Rockefeller, Alfred M. Frankfurter and Alfred H. Barr, Jr. 32 pages; 32 plates (1 in color); paper, \$1.25. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, N. Y. June 9, 1961.

This 32-page illustrated catalog of The Mrs. Adele R. Levy Collection has been published by the Museum of Modern Art to accompany a memorial exhibition of 31 works bequeathed by the late art patron to individuals and museums throughout the country and reassembled for showing in New York from June 9 through July 16.

The text includes a tribute to Mrs. Levy's service to the Museum as a trustee for 20 years and as first Vice President from 1946 to her death in 1960 written by Blanchette H. Rockefeller, President. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, has written of Mrs. Levy's interest in the Museum's Collection and her generous gifts to it. The care, study and love with which she formed her own collection is described by Dr. Alfred M. Frankfurter, well-known critic and editor.

The collection includes superb works by most of the French masters of the 19th century--in particular, Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Gauguin, Seurat, van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec. Braque, Marin, Matisse and Picasso are represented by exceptionally fine canvases. Also included are works by Corot, Fantin-Latour, Manet, Redon, Rouault, Segonzac and Soutine.

The book is available at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City for \$1.25 or by mail for \$1.50.

Photographs and additional information are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N.Y. CI 5-8900.