

The Museum of Modern Art

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ADVANCE FOR MAGAZINES ONLY

The Responsive Eye, an exhibition of more than 125 paintings and constructions by about 75 artists from some ten countries, documenting a widespread and powerful new direction in contemporary art, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from February 25 through April 25, 1965. Directed by William C. Seitz, the exhibition was announced in 1962 and has been in preparation for more than a year. An illustrated catalog will be published in February, followed later in 1965 by a book on the subject and its historical development.

After the New York showing, the exhibition will travel to St. Louis, Seattle, Pasadena and Baltimore.

The Responsive Eye exhibition will bring together paintings and constructions that initiate a new, highly perceptual phase in the grammar of art. Using only lines, bands and patterns, flat areas of color, white, gray or black, or cleanly cut wood, glass, metal and plastic, certain of these artists establish a totally new relationship between the observer and a work of art.

William Seitz, commenting on the exhibition, says: "Unlike most previous abstract painting, these works exist less as objects to be examined than as generators of perceptual responses, of colors and relationships existing solely in vision; of forms, presences and variations often entirely different from the static stimuli by the artist. Such subjective experiences, brought about by simultaneous contrast, afterimages, illusions and other optical devices are entirely real to the eye, although each observer will respond to them somewhat differently.

"The responses are by no means merely retinal, and they vary widely from optical tensions and fusions of color or tone to sonorous interactions between hues of the spectrum, retroactive effects of flatness, advance and recession, and arrangements of shapes, lines and patterns that exert a control over perception capable of arousing delight, anxiety and even vertigo."

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