

The Museum of Modern Art

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ALCOA FOUNDATION SPONSORS MUSEUM OF MODERN ART EXHIBITION OF WORKS ONCE OWNED BY THE STEIN FAMILY

The major winter exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, FOUR AMERICANS IN PARIS: THE COLLECTIONS OF GERTRUDE STEIN AND HER FAMILY, on view from December 19 through March 1, 1971, is sponsored by Alcoa Foundation. The grant from Alcoa Foundation covered the costs of assembling and mounting the exhibition of more than 225 works from all parts of the world. The paintings originally belonged to the Steins when they were early patrons of Matisse, Picasso, Gris and other artists who were to become internationally known. Earlier 20th century masters whose work they had bought included Cézanne, Renoir, Manet and Bonnard.

Because the Stein collection was eventually dispersed and the paintings found their way into major public museums and private ownership, the range of art bought over the years by this extraordinary family has never before been made available to the public as a collection.

Many of the works are being shown in this country for the first time, particularly those from the Gertrude Stein Estate bought by a group of American collectors -- André Meyer, William S. Paley, David Rockefeller, Nelson Rockefeller and John Hay Whitney. Other lenders include the Hermitage in Leningrad, the Tate Gallery in London, the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Nasjonalgalleriet, Oslo and Musée du Louvre, Paris.

One gallery is devoted to photographs about the family and their friends, writers such as Hemingway and Fitzgerald, composers Virgil Thomson and Aaron Copeland, the poet Guillaume Apollinaire, as well as Matisse and Picasso.

Alcoa Foundation received a citation for this grant from the New York Board of Trade Business Committee in the Arts in November. "Alcoa Foundation is proud to take part in bringing one of the world's outstanding family collections to one of the world's premier museums," Arthur M. Doty, the Foundation president, commented. "In its support of the arts Alcoa Foundation seeks opportunities both to be innovative and to facilitate significant exposure of art to the public." An earlier grant was made by Alcoa Foundation to the Associated Council of the Arts for research, writing and publication of a book on the development of community cultural centers around the country.

The exhibition could not have been organized without the grant from Alcoa Foundation, according to John Hightower, Director of The Museum of Modern Art. "Like practically every other cultural instituion in America today The Museum of Modern Art is caught in a severe financial bind. The particular generosity of Alcoa Foundation in making a grant for a project at the Museum has repercussions not only for our program but for the support of other arts organizations by the business community. The grant points the way to what may very well be the financial salvation of the arts in this country by the corporate sector of the economy."

The exhibition is directed by Margaret Potter, Associate Curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture. In slightly different versions it will later be shown at The Museum of Art in San Francisco, and at the Baltimore Museum of Art as well as The National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, phone (212) 956-7501, 7504.