

The Museum of Modern Art

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: GIORGIO DE CHIRICO

DATES: April 3 - June 29, 1982

SPONSOR: The exhibition was organized under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art and made possible by a generous grant from Martini & Rossi. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, and an indemnity for the exhibition has been provided by the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

DIRECTOR: William Rubin, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture

CONTENTS: GIORGIO DE CHIRICO will be the first large-scale exhibition to focus in depth on the artist's major work, created during the second decade of this century, specifically from 1911 to 1917, though the paintings shown will include a small sampling of later works, primarily from the 20s.

De Chirico is considered by many to be the greatest Italian artist of this century, or indeed since the 18th century. This exhibition will make clear de Chirico's relationship to the development of the major modernist styles of the second decade of this century -- Cubism and the post-Fauve Matisse -- as well as clarify his acknowledged position as the single most important formative influence on Surrealism, and an important factor in the German movement called the "Neue Sachlichkeit." The show will consist of approximately 75 paintings and 20 drawings from private collections and museums throughout Europe and elsewhere. It will also include works from the extraordinary recent bequest from James Thrall Soby and Nelson A. Rockefeller, now in the Museum's Collection.

De Chirico's painting has been recognized as a major point of departure for the recent flourishing of realism, and this exhibition will help us to understand his equivocal relationship to this development. It will be

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accompanied by a book of essays constituting the newest research and scholarship on the artist. By virtue of the scale, color and imagery of the works, GIORGIO DE CHIRICO promises to be both a beautiful and provocative exhibition.

BIOGRAPHY:

De Chirico was born in Greece in 1888 of Italian parents. When his father died in 1905 the family moved to Munich, where de Chirico studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, then to Italy in 1909. His work in Paris, beginning in 1911, was interrupted by the war. In 1915 he went back to Italy and joined the army. He returned to Paris eventually in 1925, where he remained until 1939. After that date he lived again in Italy, and died there in 1978.

TOUR:

After its New York closing, GIORGIO DE CHIRICO will go on tour to the Tate Gallery in London (August 4-October 3, 1982), the Haus der Kunst in Munich (November 16, 1982 - January 16, 1983), and Paris' Centre Georges Pompidou (February 10-April 17, 1983).

PUBLICATION:

De Chirico, edited by William Rubin, will contain six essays by an international roster of art historians, as well as 117 plates, 34 of them in color, and 124 reference illustrations. The essays are by Maurizio Fagiolo dell'Arco, Joan M. Lukach, Marianne W. Martin, Laura Rosenstock, William Rubin and Wieland Schmied. The 208-page book will be published by The Museum of Modern Art and will be available in the Museum stores in March.

PUBLIC OPENING:

Saturday, April 3, 1982

February 1982

For further information please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director
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