

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that seventeen new acquisitions will be shown simultaneously with the Exhibition of Modern English Architecture and an Exhibition of Posters by E. McKnight Kauffer, opening to the public Wednesday, February 10.

Two galleries on the third floor of the Museum will be devoted to the display of the new acquisitions. Gifts from the Advisory Committee of the Museum will fill one of the galleries; the other will contain acquisitions received from several sources. The Advisory Committee gifts are a group of recent works by noted modern artists and are as follows: Composition, White, Black and Red (1936) by Piet Mondrian, twenty years ago the leading painter of the Netherlands Stijl group and now generally considered the foremost living master of abstract geometrical design in painting; Composition (1936) by Jean Héliou, prominent among the younger French painters of "abstractions;" a "relief etching" on plaster (1936) by the young American, John Ferren, of special interest for its novel technical method; a wooden Relief and a plaster sculpture called Human Concretion (1935) by the French artist, Hans Arp; and a large Composition (1933) by the Catalan painter Joan Miro. Both Arp and Miro have been associated with the Surrealist movement but these works have been chosen primarily for their value as compositions of line and form.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. George L.K. Morris, the works were selected by a sub-committee of the Museum's Advisory Committee. Every year the Advisory Committee, a group largely composed of young people interested in stimulating the appreciation of modern art through the Museum, raises a fund for modern works which the Committee purchases and presents to the Museum. Miss Ethel L. Haven is ^{Chairman} of the Committee. Other members are: Hampton Barnes, Mrs. Porter Chandler, Michael Cuypers, Mrs. William T. Emmet, Jr., George Gershwin, Michael M. Hare, Sidney Janis, Lincoln Kirstein, Mrs. Henry R. Labouisse, Jr., Mrs. Ewen C. MacVeagh, Mrs. D. Percy Morgan, Jr., Mrs. George Nichols, Mrs. John Parkinson, Jr., Mrs. Charles S. Payson, Mrs. Duncan H. Read, Mrs. Stanley B. Resor, Miss Constance Ripley, Nelson A. Rockefeller,

Mrs. Charles H. Russell, Jr., Charles G. Shaw, St. John Smith, Jr., Mrs. George Palen Snow, Miss Nathalie Swan, Mrs. George Henry Warren, Jr., and Monroe Wheeler. Associate Members of the Committee are: Mrs. William F.C. Garthwaite, Mrs. B.E. Hutchinson, Nathaniel Saltonstall and John Walker, III.

The second gallery devoted to new acquisitions will contain five works by European artists and six by Americans. In the latter group are two oil panels by Frank A. Mechau, a native of Kansas now working in Colorado. These panels are studies for murals for the Post Office Department Building, Washington, D.C., and are entitled Pony Express and Dangers of the Mail. The Mechau panels have been given to the Museum by A. Conger Goodyear, who has also given William Gropper's oil, The Senate (1935), a painting already well-known to the public; Still Life (1936), a large oil by Franklin C. Watkins of Philadelphia; and Portuguese Dock, Gloucester (1936), a watercolor by De Hirsh Margules, New York artist, born in Rumania. A sculpture in wood by Barbara Hepworth and a relief (1935) by Ben Nicholson are the first English sculpture to be acquired by the Museum. They have been given respectively by William B. Bennett and H.S. Ede, both of London. A painting, Personages (1934), by John Xcéron, an American of Greek descent, has been given by N. Lély, Counselor of the Royal Greek Legation, Washington, D.C. The following works have been given to the Museum anonymously: Alberto Giacometti's The Palace at 4 a.m. (1933), a Surrealist construction in wood; The Path of the Air, an oil by René Magritte, the first Belgian artist whose work has been acquired by the Museum; and Madhouse (1935), a gouache by Pavel Tchelitchev, painter and designer for the theatre.

The recent acquisitions will be on exhibition through Sunday, March 7, when the Exhibition of Modern English Architecture and the Exhibition of Posters by E. McKnight Kauffer will also close.