

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.  
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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MUSEUM OF MODERN ART SHOWS RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PAINTING, SCULPTURE, DRAWINGS AND THEATRE DESIGN

An exhibition of painting, sculpture, drawing and theatre design by American and European artists, recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, opens to the public today, Wednesday, January 14, in the first floor galleries of the Museum. It will be on view through March 21. All but three of the works have been accessioned during 1947 and have been acquired through exchange or purchase, or as gifts from friends of the Museum.

Among the artists represented are Berman, Braque, Derain, Friedman, Gabo, Gris, Grosz, Lachaise, Baziotes, Otto Dix, Moholy-Nagy, Henry Moore, Nadelman, Soutine, Stamos, Tobey, Laurens, Lipchitz, and others.

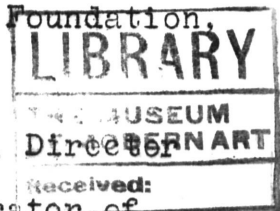
The acquisitions are arranged by groups roughly according to medium or school. The main divisions are: American painters, most of them of the younger generation, whose work is characterized in general by poetic symbolism and spontaneous freedom of form; cubist and abstract art; drawings; theatre designs; painting and sculpture of a more traditional character.

Donors of acquisitions include Bernard Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jan de Graff, August Hanniball, Jr., Rene d'Harnoncourt, Lincoln Kirstein, Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn, Mrs. Elie Nadelman, Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Neuberger, Edward W. Root, Mr. and Mrs. James Thrall Soby, Curt Valentin, Dr. Nathaniel S. Wolff, Harry Zolotow, the Griffis Foundation, and the Advisory Committee of the Museum.

The exhibition has been arranged by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections, assisted by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of the Collections. Mr. Barr comments on the new acquisitions as follows:

"Although added to the Museum Collection without any deliberate intention to concentrate on a particular movement, the works shown in the first gallery taken together, seem to indicate a broad direction in American painting which has been gaining headway over the past few years. Perhaps it is just as well that, so far, no neat descriptive term has been devised to label this tendency which is too varied to be called a school.

"The painters represented here vary in age from their early twenties to their early forties. Their immediate forbears seem to be their fellow countrymen, Dove and Tobey and the Europeans, Kandinsky, Klee, and Miro. Their work suggests a very wide range of reference: science, particularly morphological cross-sections, geological or organic; primitive pictographs; or the vague but suggestive forms of



clouds, blots, complex explosions, tangled roots or threads.

"Technically many of them seem to work with a high degree of spontaneity, even automatism, and some dependence on accident. A few are more deliberate. Most of them are concerned not only with freedom of form and technique but also with freedom of symbol--symbol which is poetic and evocative but enigmatic, suggesting a varied range of curiosity, visual humor or fear.

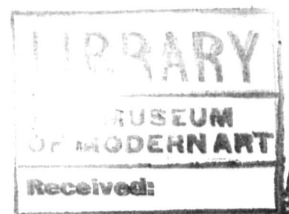
"This group is continued into the second gallery with pictures by Stamos and three older painters, Tchelitchev, Tobey and Friedman (who died between the time the Museum acquired his painting and the present exhibition.)

"Also in this gallery are four characteristic cubist works: a drawing by Gris and a classic collage by Braque, both of exceptional quality; a terra cotta by Laurens and a lead figure by Lipchitz from the heyday of cubist sculpture. These are accompanied by two small sculptures by Henry Moore, bought out of his recent one-man show in the Museum.

"Around the corner in the third gallery are three abstract works by Moholy-Nagy (until his recent death head of the School of Design, Chicago), van Doesburg of the Dutch Stijl group of thirty years ago, and a construction in transparent plastic by Naum Gabo, who with his brother Pevsner is shortly to have a retrospective in the Museum.

"Opposite the Gabo are five drawings of which the most important is a bitter early satire by George Grosz flanked on an adjacent wall by Otto Dix's equally savage watercolor of the same unhappy period and country. Nearby is a 'primitive' composition by Harry Zolotow, a retired manufacturer, who suggests in this elaborate fantasia the tiles and textiles of his native Ukraine. A series of the designs for ballets range from famous settings by Gontcharova and Bakst for the pre-1914 Diaghilev company to the more recent work of Bérard, Lurçat and Masson.

"The last gallery presents a characteristic Soutine Turkey and a sober landscape by Derain dating from the early 1920's, the time when the painter had reached the height of his influence as a leader of classic reaction against the experimental license of the previous two decades. The romantic mood of Eugene Berman's ruined portals towering against an Italian sunset is paralleled by Lux Feininger's eerie American ruin picture, Ghosts of Engines. The show concludes with two small bronze bulls modeled with an elegant wiry intensity by the late Elie Nadelman, the American sculptor, who died in 1946."



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## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

January 13, 1948

### Paintings

BAZIOTES, William. American, born 1911.

1. Dwarf. 1947. Oil on canvas, 42 x 36 1/8". Purchase Fund. 239.47.

Note: The Dwarf was acquired by the Museum in October 1947. In November, the artist won the Walter M. Campana Memorial Prize of \$1000 (the highest money award) at the 58th Annual Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture, The Art Institute of Chicago.

BERMAN, Eugene. American, born Russia 1899. Worked in Paris. In U.S.A. since 1936.

2. The Gates of the City, Nightfall. 1937. Oil on canvas, 30 1/8 x 40".

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. James Thrall Soby. 234.47.

CULWELL, Ben. American, born 1913.

3. Men Fighting and Stars in the Solomons. (1942.) Watercolor and gouache, 8 x 8". Purchase Fund. 5.47.

4. Death by Burning. (c. 1942.) Watercolor and gouache, 12 1/8 x 9 5/8". Purchase Fund. 4.47.

Note: Culwell served in the Navy 1941-43; three years' combat duty, Pacific theatre.

DERAIN, André. French, born 1830.

5. Three Trees. (1924.) Oil on canvas, 36 x 32 1/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn. 302.47.

DIX, Otto. German, born 1891.

6. Two Heads. 1921. Watercolor and pencil, 20 x 16 1/8". Purchase Fund. 124.45

van DOESBURG, Theo, Dutch, 1883-1931. (In collaboration with Cornelis van Eesteren.)

7. Color Construction (Project for a Private House). (1922.) Gouache, 22 1/2 x 23 1/2". Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. Fund. 149.47. Architecture Collection.

Note: A design embodying the esthetics of de Stijl, a group active first in the Netherlands then, later, throughout Europe from 1917 to about 1930. Mondrian, the painter, and J. J. P. Oud, the architect, were also important members.

DONATI, Enrico. American, born Italy 1909. Worked in France.

8. St. Elmo's Fire. 1944. Oil on canvas, 33 1/2 x 28 1/2". Given anonymously. 139.47

FEININGER, Theodore Lux. American, born Germany 1910.

9. Ghosts of Engines. 1946. Oil on canvas, 20 1/8 x 24".

Gift of the Griffis Foundation. 309.47

FRIEDMAN, Arnold. American, 1879-1946.

10. Sawtooth Falls. (1945.) Oil on canvas, 33 1/8 x 29 7/8". Purchase Fund

and gift of Dr. Nathaniel S. Wolff (by exchange). 119.46.

GOTTLIEB, Adolph. American, born 1903.

11. Voyager's Return. 1946. Oil on canvas, 37 7/8 x 29 7/8".

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Neuberger. 175.46.

HILLSMITH, Fannie. American, born 1911.

12. Liquor Store Window. 1946. Oil tempera and sand on

canvas, 32 x 34 1/8". Purchase Fund. 307.47.

KUPFERMAN, Lawrence. American, born 1909.

13. Low Tide Seascape. 1947. Gouache, 23 1/4 x 29". Purchase Fund. 308.47.

MARTÍNEZ PEDRO, Luis. Cuban, born 1910.

14. At the Beach of Jibacoa. 1946. Watercolor and gouache on cardboard,

13 1/2 x 9 3/8". Inter-American Fund. 14.47.

SELIGER, Charles. American, born 1926.

15. Natural History: Form within Rock. 1946. Oil on canvas,

25 x 30". Gift of August Hanniball, Jr. 139.47.

SOUTINE, Chaim. Lithuanian, 1894-1943. Worked in France.

16. Turkey. (1926.) Oil on canvas, 36 x 28 1/2". Gift of

Bernard Davis (by exchange). 26.47.

STAMOS, Theodoros. American, born 1922.

17. Sounds in the Rock. 1946. Oil on composition board,

48 1/8 x 28 3/8". Gift of Edward W. Root. 27.47.

TCHELITCHEW, Pavel. American, born Russia 1898. Worked in Berlin, Paris and England. In U.S.A. since 1934.

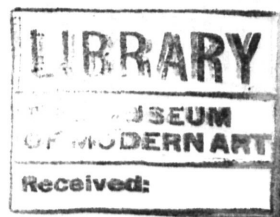
18. Head of Autumn. Study for Hide-and-Seek. 1941. Watercolor and

gouache, 13 x 14 7/8". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 28.47.

TOBEY, Mark. American, born 1890.

19. Remote Field. 1944. Tempera, pencil and crayon on cardboard,

28 1/8 x 30". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jan de Graaff. 143.47.



ZOLOTOW, Harry. American, born Russia 1888. In U.S.A. since c. 1909.

20. Painting. (1946.) Oil on canvas,  $54\frac{1}{4}$  x 40". Gift of the artist. 82.47.

Note: Asked about this painting, Zolotow said: "I always enjoy putting circles on circles, triangles on triangles, one inside the other. I like oriental colors. I get my conceptions of many colors from watching the clothes and costume jewelry which women wear. Also....I get my inspiration by just sitting and mixing colors."

Drawings and Collage

BRAQUE, Georges. French, born 1881.

21. Guitar. (1913-14.) Oil on canvas with pasted paper, pencil and chalk,  $39\frac{1}{4}$  x  $25\frac{5}{8}$ ". Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 304.47

CAGLI, Carrado. American, born Italy 1910.

22. Early History of Man, 10. 1946. Pen and ink,  $12\frac{1}{8}$  x 9". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 112.47.

DIAGO, Roberto. Cuban, born 1920.

23. Head, 1946. Pen and ink,  $11\frac{5}{8}$  x  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ". Inter-American Fund. 233.47.

GRIS, Juan. Spanish, 1887-1927. Worked in Paris.

24. Fruit Dish and Bottle. 1917. Conté crayon,  $18\frac{5}{8}$  x  $12\frac{1}{8}$ ".  
Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 306.47.

GROSZ, George. American, born Germany 1893.

25. Fit for Active Service. (1918.) Pen and brush and india ink,  $14\frac{5}{8}$  x  $13\frac{3}{8}$ ". Purchase Fund. 234.47.

Note: Grosz satirizes the procedure of the German army which, desperate for lack of manpower in the last year of World War I, sent the sick and wounded back into the trenches.



LACHAISE, Gaston. American, born France 1882. Died 1935.

26. Woman, Head and Shoulders. (c. 1931.) Pencil, 19 x  $12\frac{1}{4}$ ".  
Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 12.47.

RAMIREZ, Everardo. Mexican, born c. 1918.

27. Head of a Girl. (1930.) Pencil,  $8\frac{3}{4}$  x  $9\frac{1}{4}$ ".  
Gift of René d'Harnoncourt. 138.47

Note: The whereabouts of the artist who made this drawing at the age of 12 is now unknown.



Sculpture and Constructions

GABO, Naum. Russian, born 1890. Worked in Germany, Paris and England.

In U.S.A. 1947.

28. Spiral Theme. (1941.) Construction in plastic, 7 1/2" high x 24" square.  
Gift of the Advisory Committee. 7.47.

LAURENS, Henri. French, born 1885.

29. Guitar. (1920.) Terra cotta, 14 1/4" high. Gift of Curt Valentin. 303.47.

LIPCHITZ, Jacques. French, born Lithuania 1891. In U.S.A. since 1941.

30. Seated Pierrot. 1921. Lead, 13 5/8" high. A. Conger Goodyear Fund. 236.47.

MOHOLY-NAGY, Ladislaus. American born Hungary 1895; Chicago, 1937; died 1946.

31. Space Modulator L3. (1936.) Perforated zinc over painting on composition board, with glass-headed pins, 17 x 19". Purchase Fund. 223.47.

MOORE, Henry. English, born 1898.

32. The Bride. (1940.) Cast lead and copper wire, 9 3/8" high.

Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 15.47.

33. Family Group. (1945.) Bronze, 9 3/8" high. Acquired through the

Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 16.47.

NADELMAN, Elie. American, born Poland, 1882; Paris, 1903; New York, 1913; died 1946.

34. Standing Bull. (1915.) Bronze, 11 1/4" long.

Gift of Mrs. Elie Nadelman. 225.47.

35. Wounded Bull. (1915.) Bronze, 11 1/2" long.

Gift of Mrs. Elie Nadelman. 226.47.



Ballet Designs

BAKST, Léon. Russian, 1868-1924. Worked in Paris.

36. Thamar: design for scenery for the ballet produced by the Ballets Russes, Paris, 1912. Gouache, 9 1/4 x 9 7/8". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 269.47.  
Dance and Theatre Collection.

BÉRARD, Christian. French, born 1902.

37. Symphonie Fantastique: design for scenery for the ballet produced by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, London, 1936. Gouache, 11 1/8 x 18 1/2". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 270.47.3. Dance and Theatre Collection.

GONTCHAROVA, Nathalie. Russian, born 1881. Lives in Paris.

38. Le Coq d'Or: design for scenery for the ballet produced by the Ballets Russes, Paris, 1914. Gouache, 18 3/8 x 24 1/4". Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 305.47. Dance and Theatre Collection.

LURÇAT, Jean. French, born 1892.

39. Jardin Publique: 2 designs for costumes for the ballet produced by the  
40. Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Paris, 1935. Gouache, 19 1/8 x 12 7/8";  
22 3/4 x 15 3/8". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 276.47.1-2. Dance and Theatre Collection.

MASSON, André. French, born 1896. In U.S.A. 1941-46.

41. Les Présages: design for curtain for the ballet produced by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Monte Carlo, 1933. Crayon and gouache, 18 3/4 x 23". Gift of Lincoln Kirstein. 271.47.1. Dance and Theatre Collection.

