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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET. NEW YORK

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The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that a shipment of 45 oil paintings and 46 drawings and watercolors by the Dutch artist, Vincent van Gogh, will arrive on the Statendam Sunday, October 13. The shipment is valued at one million dollars and includes many of the finest examples of the artist's work. The pictures were selected last summer by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum, who went abroad to arrange loans for the Museum's large van Gogh Exhibition which will open to the public November 5.

Since Mr. Barr's return to this country some fear has been expressed that the increasingly troubled conditions in Europe might prevent the sending of such valuable paintings across the ocean, but the Museum has been advised by cable that the entire selection is on board the Statendam.

To minimize as much as possible the handling of such valuable and fragile objects, the pictures will not be opened for Customs inspection at the dock but will be brought, heavily guarded, under Customs cord and seal direct to the Museum and held unopened until the Customs Inspector arrives to examine them, a courtesy usually extended by the Collector of Customs where shipments are especially valuable and fragile.

The shipment on the Statendam consists of two lots: 33 oils and 35 drawings and watercolors from the collection of The Kroeller-Mueller Foundation at Wassenaar, Holland, which includes in its one thousand or more paintings and drawings the most important van Gogh collection in the world--98 oils and more than 100 drawings and watercolors; and 12 oils and 11 drawings and watercolors from the collection of the Engineer Vincent W. van Gogh of Amsterdam, nephew of the artist and son of his favorite brother Theo, whose own life was closely involved in his brother's tragic career.

The tragedy of Vincent van Gogh's life can be vividly illustrated by the contrast shown between the world's complete neglect of even his masterpieces while he lived and the appreciation and homage the world gives to his work now he is dead. So far as can be ascertained, van Gogh during his lifetime was able to sell only two of the more than 700 pictures he painted. One of these was a portrait he was commissioned to paint for 20 francs (\$4); the other, a landscape,

his brother sold for 400 francs (\$80) a year before the artist's death. In addition van Gogh sold about 20 drawings at the average price of \$1.25 a drawing. These comprised his entire sales during his lifetime, from which he realized a total amount of little more than one hundred dollars. One of his paintings of sunflowers, a favorite subject with van Gogh, he himself modestly estimated should bring 500 francs (\$100), but there was no sale of it during his lifetime. Several years ago, one of these sunflower paintings was sold for \$50,000.

Vincent van Gogh, son of a Dutch Protestant pastor, was born at Zundert, The Netherlands, in 1853. Not until he was twenty-eight years old, after a thwarted and tragic youth, did he determine to become a painter. For five years after he began painting he lived in abject poverty in his native Holland. The murky greens and browns of his canvases of that period reflect his life at that time. In 1886 he went to Paris and there his palette began to brighten. Two years later, in Provence, van Gogh discovered himself and for the remaining two years of his short life painted with such violent energy that his canvases radiate a terrible vitality of color, rhythm and form. Those years were marked by periods of insanity and when van Gogh shot himself, in July, 1890, he left a last note to his brother; "I am risking my life for my work and for it my sanity has half-foundered."

The Vincent van Gogh Exhibition, which will open at the Museum of Modern Art November 5, will include about sixty five paintings and over fifty drawings and watercolors by the great modern Dutch artist, most of which have never been seen in this country. The Exhibition will remain on view at the Museum in New York through January 5, 1935, and will then be shown in Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland, and San Francisco. The museums of these cities have collaborated with the Museum of Modern Art in bringing to this country the paintings from the van Gogh and Kroeller-Mueller collections.