

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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## "COLLECTORS' CHOICE"

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

FROM SEVEN NEW YORK PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Wednesday, July 3, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, inaugurates a new series of exhibitions which might be called "Collectors' Choice." Instead of making selections itself from seven noted private collections in New York City, the Museum has requested the individual collectors to send to the exhibition the paintings from which they have derived the greatest pleasure and satisfaction. The resultant exhibition is a rich and varied cross section of some of the finest paintings by modern masters owned in this country.

The 59 paintings which comprise the exhibition have been selected from the following collections: Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Ault, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Bakwin, Miss Katherine S. Dreier, Sidney Janis, Dr. and Mrs. David M. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn, James Thrall Soby. The exhibition, which will be shown in the first floor galleries and the garden corridor, has been directed by Monroe Wheeler, the Museum's Director of Exhibitions and Publications.

As these are collections from which the Museum has often borrowed for various group and one-man shows, many of the paintings will be greeted as old friends by the Museum public. Among these are two versions of L'Arlésienne by van Gogh, one from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Bakwin, the other the famous painting from the Lewisohn collection. Also from the Lewisohn collection is the much-loved We Greet You, Mary (la Orana Maria) by Gauguin; Picasso's blue period Harlequin's Family; Rouault's Three Judges; and Matisse's Pink Tablecloth. In addition to the van Gogh, the Bakwin collection has also supplied two Cézannes, two Renoirs, a Matisse, a Rouault, a Rousseau and a Soutine.

Picasso, Cézanne and Renoir appear to be the favorite painters: Picasso represented by five canvases; Cézanne and Renoir by four each. Matisse, Rouault and Soutine are represented by three paintings each. Two of the extremely rare paintings of Seurat are included: from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. David M. Levy comes Sunset with frame painted by the artist; from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn Sunday at the Grande-Jatte, the final and nearly complete study in oil for the great canvas owned by the Art Institute of Chicago.

Several of the paintings in the exhibition are new, never having been

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shown before. Among these are Ben Shahn's Father and Child (1946) from the James Thrall Soby collection; the Maurice Sterne Provincetown Seascape with Pier (1945) from the Lewisohn collection; and Morris Hirshfield's Daniel in the Lions' Den (1944) from the Sidney Janis collection. Mr. Janis has also lent Louis Vivin's Cathedral of Notre Dame (c.1920), never before shown in this country. Another new painting is Rufino Tamayo's The Black Clocks (1945) from the Lee A. Ault collection; also from that collection are Rouault's Red-Haired Woman (1908) and Soutine's The Little Pastry Cook (1925).

From the collection of Miss Katherine S. Dreier comes Kandinsky's The Storm; Léger's People in a Garden; Campendonk's Cows on a Village Street II; and The Cat painted by Miss Dreier herself.

The van Gogh Purple Iris has been lent by Dr. and Mrs. David M. Levy who have also selected from their collection Bonnard's Roofs, Corot's En Fleur, and Manet's Oysters. In addition to the Shahn, Mr. James Thrall Soby has lent Eugene Berman's At the Gates of the City, Chirico's The Seer, Tanguy's The Furniture of Time, and paintings by Blume, Klee, Miro and Picasso.

Mr. Wheeler has commented on the idea of the exhibition as follows:

"In the seventeen years since it was founded, the Museum of Modern Art has held in New York three hundred and twenty-five exhibitions, most of which would not have been possible without the constant helpfulness and good will of individual private collectors who have always been happy to share the enjoyment of their collections with others.

"Until now the Museum has always made its own selection of the works borrowed. In the case of the present exhibition, however, this procedure has been reversed: the collectors were asked to send us the paintings from which they themselves had derived the greatest pleasure.

"The role played by private collectors in the development of modern art can never be overestimated. It is they who try out new art forms and discover whether they are rewarding or not. They love and believe in the works of art they own, and naturally they want others to delight in them as they do. When there are many collectors, and their taste is various and their esthetic judgment far-sighted, so as to correspond to the number and originality of the artists of their time, then a civilization is most likely to produce its characteristic expression in art.

"In presenting this exhibition, which is the first of a series, the Museum of Modern Art wishes to express its sincere appreciation not only of the generosity of the lenders but of the admirable sense of artistic values which their collections manifest."

The exhibition will remain on view through Sunday, September 22.