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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART INSTALLS COLLECTION IN PERMANENT GALLERIES

Some of the finest paintings in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, have been newly installed in a series of recently remodelled galleries on the second floor. All of the galleries on this floor, with the exception of the two devoted to the Young People's Gallery, will from now on be the permanent exhibition space of the Museum's Collection.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., the Museum's Research Director of Painting and Sculpture, has planned the galleries and supervised the hanging of the paintings now on view. Mr. Barr points out, however, that even with the additional room made available by the rearrangement of the second floor galleries, the space devoted to exhibiting the collection is still far from adequate. This is true in spite of the fact that several large pieces of the Museum's Sculpture Collection are now on view in the garden and that many pieces are shown in the permanent sculpture galleries on the third floor. Also, thirty American paintings from the Collection have been loaned to the Tate Gallery, London, for its large summer exhibition: 200 Years of American Painting.

Mr. Barr comments on the new installation as follows:

"Installing the painting galleries has been a problem of compression. The new space, now permanently set aside on the second floor, has made available three additional galleries for the Museum Collection, yet there is even now room for only 120 paintings. As a result only one out of every six paintings in the Collection can be shown at one time. For this reason the installation should not be thought of as permanent, although the Museum's most important pictures will hereafter be on view at all times except when some of them are out on loan. This happens to be the case at the present moment since about thirty of the Museum's best American paintings have been lent to the Tate Gallery in London.

"In arranging the Collection, no attempt has been made to follow strict chronological order or national divisions. The first gallery, given to popular and folk art is dominated by Rousseau's Sleeping Gypsy and the great 19th century carved eagle from Rhode Island. Then follow the classic modern masters such as Cézanne, Seurat, van Gogh, Prendergast and the older generation of living artists led by Matisse, Bonnard and Picasso. Expressionism is presented through its pioneers, Rouault in Paris, Kirchner and Kokoschka in Central Europe, Max Weber in the United States, Orozco in Mexico.

"Two galleries are devoted to cubism and its tradition, including three important recently acquired canvases by Picasso, Braque and Duchamp. Six works represent the most characteristic forms of abstract painting throughout the past thirty years: Kandinsky through Arp to Miro; Malevich's White on White to Mondrian's Broadway Boogie-Woogie. Then follows a gallery of

large poetic allegories in which Tchelitchev and Lam concern themselves with the absorption of man in nature, Beckmann and Blume with the despairs and hopes of man in society.

"In the remaining galleries varieties of lyric fantasy, dream realism, and factual painting include the work of Klee, Masson, Graves, Tanguy, de Chirico, Dix, Sheeler, and others. The show concludes with a group of watercolors by Marin, Demuth, Burchfield and Klee.

"In the exit corridor are hung photographs of the Museum's loans to the London exhibition 200 Years of American Painting. This show, selected by a committee of ten American museum authorities, is the most important exhibition of American paintings ever held abroad. The Museum of Modern Art is therefore very pleased to find that for the twentieth century section of the London show, totaling some 160 works, no less than 30 paintings were chosen from the Museum's Collection alone.

"These loans to London will be badly missed but the Collection is rich enough so that other American works will at least partially take their place. In any case the galleries now permanently allocated to the Collection give new evidence of the Museum's increasing concern with the works of art in its possession, works which have so generously been bequeathed, given, or purchased by its friends over the past seventeen years."

Five check lists are attached:

- I Paintings, etc. from the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art Installed in the New Galleries on the Second Floor, July 1946.
- II Sculpture from the Museum Collection, Third Floor Galleries, July 1946.
- III Drawings from the Museum Collection, Third Floor Gallery, July 1946.
- IV Sculpture from the Museum Collection, Museum Garden, July 1946.
- V Loans from the Museum of Modern Art to the Exhibition "200 Years of American Painting" at the Tate Gallery, London, Summer 1946.

Picasso's Guernica and other important extended loans are on view on the third floor.