

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
520217-11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POPULAR BOOK ON MODERN PAINTING TO BE RE-ISSUED

The best-selling book in the Museum of Modern Art's 23-year publishing history, WHAT IS MODERN PAINTING? by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., will be re-issued on March 8 in a revised and expanded form, brought up to date for its 5th edition. Since the first publication in 1943 of this 48-page paper back book, 55,000 copies have been sold here and abroad.

In his preface Mr. Barr, who is Director of the Collections of the Museum of Modern Art, says that WHAT IS MODERN PAINTING? is for people who have had little experience in looking at paintings, particularly those modern paintings which are sometimes considered puzzling, difficult or incompetent. The purpose of the book, he says, is to undermine prejudice, disturb indifference and awaken interest so that some greater understanding and love of the more adventurous painting of our day may follow.

Most of the 54 black and white plates of paintings illustrated are in the Museum Collection. The text discusses the different kinds of modern painting: realism, impressionism, expressionism, the cubists and constructors, the problem of motion, surrealism, mystery and magic, allegory and prophecy and mid-century abstract paintings. A concluding section discusses the qualities that make paintings great; the hatred of modern art in Nazi Germany and the U.S.S.R.; and the factors which make modern painting valuable in our free culture. A brief bibliography is included.

The book is being distributed by Simon and Schuster, or may be ordered by individuals from the Museum. Its price is \$1.25.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND REVIEW COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT, MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, 11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK.