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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Guernica, the famous 25-foot mural by Pablo Picasso, left the U. S. by air on Friday, September 25 for its first return trip to Europe since it was sent here just before the start of World War II. The mural has been on loan from the artist to the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, where it has been on view almost continuously since 1941.

Guernica will be included in an exhibition of work by Picasso which opened this month in the Brera Gallery, Milan, Italy. In November the huge mural of death and destruction in a Spanish town, will be shipped to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where it will be shown for the first time in South America. It will return to the Museum of Modern Art in New York in the spring of 1954.

The mural, exactly 11' 6" high and 25' 8" long, has been seen by millions of visitors to the Museum since it was first shown in a Picasso exhibition in 1939. Painted entirely in black, white and gray, the colors of mourning, it is considered one of the most powerful and moving paintings produced in this century. It was originally commissioned by the Spanish Government for its pavillion at the Paris World's Fair in 1937. The title comes from the Basque town of Guernica which was destroyed by Nazi bombers on April 28, 1937, in the first instance of total destruction of a non-military objective in our time.

For the past 7 years the mural has been installed in a special room in the Museum's second floor galleries where paintings from the Museum Collection are permanently on view.