

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

531217-89

*local + natl Design  
invitation list*

PRESS PREVIEW : Tuesday,  
December 22, 1953  
2 to 5 p.m.

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday,  
December 23, 1953

## MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT OBJECTS FROM DESIGN COLLECTION

For the first time in its history the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will present an entire exhibition of beautiful and historically important objects which have been acquired for its unique Architecture and Design Collection. Examples of industrial, craft, graphic and architectural design will be included in the exhibition which will be on view from December 23 through February 22. A dramatic background for the show has been designed by Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, who has lined one of the two first floor galleries with panels of snowlike plastic to make a striking and unusual background for the objects.

In the main entrance to the Museum Mr. Johnson has placed a stained glass window, "Nuit de Noel", by Henri Matisse. In the main hallway are colored paper maquettes of a chasuble, burse, stole and chalice which Matisse designed for the Chapel at Vence. In the galleries will be hung a white silk chasuble decorated with green and yellow satin applique, an example of exquisite needlework, also designed by Matisse.

A walnut handmade beaker by an American designer, crystal brandy and wine glasses from France, a porcelain coffee cup from Germany, a mother-of-pearl and ebony stamp box from Vienna, a Finnish wood platter, a silver chess set by an American artist, a lamp and chair from the Dutch Stijl movement, a Thonet bentwood chair manufactured in 1870, an Italian office typewriter, the famous leather and metal "Barcelona" chair by Mies van der Rohe, an English jewelry box, a model for "The Endless House" by Frederick Kiesler, and letterheads and envelopes, posters and book jackets by American and European graphic designers will all be on view.

This exhibition of 37 objects, all of which have been acquired since June, 1946, represents only a small fraction of the total Design Collection which includes approximately 2500 items. Architectural models, drawings and three dimensional color slides, furniture from the Art Nouveau period of 1900 to recent chairs by American designers such as Charles Eames, small objects such as Tiffany glass, lamps, kitchen utensils, fabrics, pottery and glassware, examples of Machine Art,

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and posters, signs, letterheads and other combinations of word and image from the 1890's to the present day make up this highly selective Collection, the only one of its kind in the world.

These objects, selected for their intrinsic beauty and importance in the history and development of modern design, are available to students, artists and designers for study and are loaned to other museums and institutions for special displays. A large group from the Collection is now touring Europe in an exhibition of American design organized by the Museum for the United States Information Agency.

The Design Collection has been formed in part from material exhibited in the Museum. Lobmyer glass, Art Nouveau objects and Thonet chairs, for example, were first shown in various exhibitions presented by the Department of Architecture and Design and then acquired for the Collection. Other objects have first been shown in annual exhibitions of objects available in America. The Design Collection is one unit of the Museum Collections, under the Direction of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., which includes films and photographs as well as painting and sculpture.

All the objects in the present exhibition were acquired since 1946, although their date of design ranges from 1870 to 1953. In general this selection of recently acquired objects is planned to give an indication of the breadth of the collection and to show some of the particularly beautiful and elegant things which have been created by American and European designers in our time.

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## C H E C K L I S T

RECENT ACQUISITIONS 1946 - 1953

Department of Architecture and Design

Knife, Fork and Spoon -	Sterling silver 1938	L. Caccia Dominioni & P.C. Castiglioni Italian. Manufactured by Azucena, Italy Anonymous gift
Table Lamp -	Glass & metal 1924	Gerrit Rietveld, Dutch Gift of Gerrit Rietveld
Armchair -	Painted wood 1917	Gerrit Rietveld, Dutch Anonymous gift
Stamp Box -	Mother-of-pearl & ebony 1946	Josef Hoffman, Austrian Manufactured by Kunstlerwerkstätten Verein Vienna (Karl Krehan, crafts- man), Austria Purchase
Platter -	Laminated plywood 1951	Tapio Wirkkala, Finnish Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc.
Tray -	Laminated plywood 1951	Tapio Wirkkala, Finnish Gift of Greta Danie.
Chess Set -	Silver plated copper 1927	Man Ray, American Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund
Armchair -	Wood 1870	Thonet Brothers, Austrian Gift of Thonet Industries, Inc.
Lounge Chair -	Chrome-plated steel and leather 1926	Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, American, born Germany. Gift of the manufacturer, Knoll Associates
Tumbler -	Crystal 1948	Vera Liskova, Czechoslovakian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.
Bowl -	Crystal 1948	Vera Liskova, Czechoslovakian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.
Jewel Box	Sterling silver decorated with mother-of-pearl, enamel & turquoise. 1900	Charles Knox, English Manufactured for Liberty & Co. (William Craythorne, craftsman) Gift of the family of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Coffee Cup -	(modern adaptation of traditional design) Porcelain	Manufactured by A. Giraud & Brousseau, Limoges, France Gift of Mayhew Shop
Coffee Cup -	Porcelain 1929-1933	Trude Petri-Raben, American, born Germany Manufactured by Royal Berlin Porcelain Factory, Germany Gift of Fraser's, Inc.
Vase -	Opaque glass 1949	Paolo Venini, Italian Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc.
Ice Bucket -	Sterling silver & Raffia 1951	Magnus Stephensen, Danish Manufactured by Georg Jensen ( G. Pedersen, craftsman), Denmark. Anonymous gift
<del>Two Tumblers</del> -	Crystal 1939 - 1941	Elis Bergh, Swedish Manufactured by Kosta Ltd., Sweden Gift of D. Stanley Corcoran
Beaker -	Walnut 1951	Reynold G. Dennis, American Gift of the manufacturer, Lomurian Crafts.
Ashtray & Cigarette Cup -	Austrian jade 1948	Morris Zerner, American, born Austria Gift of Georg Jensen, Inc.
Two Stem Glasses -	Crystal 1920	Josef Hoffmann, Austrian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.
Champagne Glass -	Crystal 1924	Oswald Haerdtl, Austrian Manufactured by J.&L. Lobmeyr, Austria Gift of A.J. van Dugteren & Sons, Inc.
Wine Glass -	Crystal 1911 - 1935	Manufactured by Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, France. Gift of Baccarat & Porthault
Brandy Glass -	Crystal 1895	M. Thiebault, French Manufactured by Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, France. Gift of Baccarat & Porthault
Office Typewriter -	Metal 1947	Marcello Nizzoli, Italian Manufactured by the Olivetti Company, Italy. Gift of the Olivetti Corp. of America

Church Vestments	Silk with velvet & silk decorations c. 1950	Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Manufactured at Les Ateliers des Arts Appliques, Cannes, France. Purchase
Design for red & yellow chasuble.	Gouache on cut-and-pasted paper c. 1950	Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest
Design for "Nuit De Noel"	Gouache on cut-and-pasted paper 1952	Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Gift of Time, Inc.
"Nuit De Noel"	Stained glass window 1952	Henri Matisse, French (1869-) Manufactured at the workshop of Paul and Adeline Bony, Paris, France. Gift of Time, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE:

Endless House	Terra cotta 1951	Frederick Kiesler, American, born Austria Purchase
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GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Poster for Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan	1938	A. M. Cassandre, French Gift of A. M. Cassandre
Page from catalogue for Knoll Associates	1951	Herbert Matter, American, born Switzerland Gift of Herbert Matter
Catalogue cover "8 Automobiles"	1951	Leo Lionni, American, born Holland Gift of Leo Lionni
Pamphlet for Noonday Press	1953	Alvin Lustig, American Gift of Alvin Lustig
Letterhead	c. 1950	Bruno Munari, Italian Gift of Bruno Munari
Album Cover "Ralph Sutton at the Piano"	1952	Rudolph de Harak, American Gift of Rudolph de Harak
Magazine Cover "Terapia"	1953	Will Burtin, American, born Germany Gift of Will Burtin
Letterheads and Envelopes	1929 - 1934	From the Jan Tschichold Collection Anonymous gift