

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900,

16
Invitation List

540108-4

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday,
January 13, 1954

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PLANS VUILLARD EXHIBITION

The first major retrospective exhibition in this country of paintings and prints by the French artist, Edouard Vuillard, whose work has excited renewed interest since the war, has been organized by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition will open at the Cleveland Museum of Art this month. It will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York from April 7 through June 6. To coincide with the opening in Cleveland, the Museum of Modern Art will publish Mr. Ritchie's extensive monograph on Vuillard, the first by an English speaking author. (Edouard Vuillard, Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, 96 pages; 85 plates, 25 in color; bibliography; \$3.50 cloth, \$2.50 paper.)

Almost a third of the 130 oil paintings in the exhibition were borrowed from private and public collections in England, France and Switzerland by Mr. Ritchie who went to Europe last year to make arrangements for the show. The exhibition will also include 28 prints and the book will contain a concise article on Vuillard as a print-maker by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints at the Museum of Modern Art.

Vuillard has been called the most "intimate" painter since Chardin and has also often been compared to the Dutch painter Vermeer, Mr. Ritchie points out. Although he was an instantaneous success in the 1890's and was much admired, not only by such painter-contemporaries as Toulouse-Lautrec and Bonnard, who were his friends, but by poets and writers such as Mallarmé and André Gide, his art ran counter to the main-stream of development after about 1905 and he became increasingly reluctant to exhibit publicly. Partly as a result, his work fell into a sort of critical obscurity until 1938 when a large exhibition was held in Paris. Since then and especially since the last war, there has been a growing revival of interest in him.

Among the major works from abroad which Mr. Ritchie obtained for the exhibition and which will be seen for the first time in this country are two large decorative panels lent by James Dugdale, Esq., of Crathorn, Yorkshire, England, "Interior with Cipa Godebski and Missia" lent by Sir Alexander Korda, "Mother and Baby" from the Glasgow Art Gallery, "Two Women by Lamplight" from the Musée de l'Annonciade a Saint-Tropez, France and a famous "Interior" of 1893 from the Kunstmuseum in Winterthur, Switzerland.