

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND JAPAN

The Museum of Modern Art, which has just announced a campaign to raise 25 million dollars for additional building and program funds, has played an important role in worldwide cultural exchange since its founding in 1929. This activity has been increased in recent years with the establishment of the International Program, a special department in the Museum devoted to cultural exchange. The importance of this activity to men and women all over America is attested by the fact that the Museum's Program is now under the auspices of an International Council composed of community leaders and art patrons from many parts of the country.

In 1940 the Museum presented its first exhibition devoted entirely to Japanese art, The Works of Sharaku. Since then it has continued to exhibit and collect the work of Japanese artists, and has circulated exhibitions of Japanese art to institutions in the United States and Canada. The Museum has also assembled exhibitions of American art for showing in Japan.

Most famous of the Museum's exhibitions pertaining to Japan was the erection of a Japanese House and garden based on 16th- and 17th-century prototypes in the Museum's garden and shown during the summers of 1954 and 1955. Over 230,000 people visited it and it is now a permanent feature of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.

Japanese Calligraphy and Japanese Pottery were the subjects of two of the Museum's exhibitions in 1954. Japanese calligraphy has been an important influence on contemporary American painting and the exhibition devoted to it was widely circulated in the United States. Similarly, a survey of some of the most significant moments of Japanese architecture from its earliest history to contemporary times was also widely shown throughout this country and Canada, from 1953 to 1958.

In 1954 the International Program sent to Japan a memorial exhibition of the works of Yasuo Kuniyoshi and in 1957 exhibited Twentieth Century Design in America and Europe: Selections from the Collections of The Museum of Modern Art there. Both exhibitions were seen in several Japanese cities. The Program also organized the United States Representation at the second and fourth International Art Exhibitions sponsored by the Foreign Ministry of Japan in 1953 and 1957. Both opened in Tokyo and were shown thereafter in seven other leading cities.

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The Museum's publication The Architecture of Japan by Arthur Drexler records the contribution made by Japan's architects to modern architecture in the West. Through the International Publications Program several books have had Japanese editions among them, What is Modern Painting? by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., and The History of Photography from 1839 to the Present Day by Beaumont Newhall. The archives of the Film Library also contain contemporary Japanese films.

A detailed list of activities is available upon request.

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