

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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The United States Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, the only privately owned exhibition hall at the famous international art show, will contain work by two sculptors and two painters at the 31st exhibition opening June 16, René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, announced today. The painters are Loren MacIver and the late Jan Müller; the sculptors are Louise Nevelson and Dimitri Hadzi. The exhibition has been selected by the Museum of Modern Art which has owned the Pavilion since 1954. Governments of more than 30 countries are expected to participate in the summer-long exhibition.

The exhibition in the United States Pavilion will be presented under the auspices of the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art, an organization of more than 100 art patrons from various parts of the United States who support the Museum's international activities.

Louise Nevelson (born 1900) will be represented by a number of her sculptured "walls" and columns, great painted wood constructions for which she has become widely known in recent years. This section of the exhibition will be directed by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of the Museum Collections, who included a gallery of Nevelson's sculpture in 16 Americans at the Museum in 1959-60. Her sculpture was also shown in the recent Art of Assemblage directed by William Seitz, Associate Curator, Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions.

Approximately 20 works have been selected by James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, for the Loren MacIver show. Mr. Soby, who has written extensively about Miss MacIver, characterizes her as one of the most sensitive and personal painters of her generation. "MacIver has always been interested most of all in an intimate, poetic response to objects and scenes that are available to everyone but which she has a special ability to anoint with freshness and wonder, like a child exploring its first Christmas stocking." Miss MacIver, who was born in 1909, is represented in numerous public and private collections.

A memorial exhibition of about 12 paintings will be held for Jan Müller who died in 1958 at the age of 35. This group will be selected by Peter Selz, Curator of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, who included Müller's work in the New Images of Man exhibition at the Museum in 1959. Müller's monumental paintings, inspired by ancient and medieval allegories and myths, were recently seen in a retrospective show at the Guggenheim Museum in New York and at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

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Mr. Selz is also selecting three bronzes by Dimitri Hadzi, a 40-year old American artist living in Rome. Hadzi's sculptures, will be placed out of doors in front of the United States Pavilion.

A small catalog illustrated by an example of the work of each of the four artists will be written by James Thrall Soby, Meyer Shapiro, William Seitz and Peter Selz, with an introduction by René d'Harnoncourt.

In addition to the works in the U.S. Pavilion, America will also be represented by an exhibition of 30 works by the late Arshile Gorky, presented in the Central Pavilion at the invitation of the Venice Biennale. This is the first time a 20th Century American artist has been honored by a special invitational exhibition organized by the Biennale itself. The Gorky show is being assembled by Lloyd Goodrich of the Whitney Museum of American Art and Ethel K. Schwabacher who published a monograph on the artist in 1957.

Forty-eight artists have been represented at the Venice Biennale since the Museum purchased the building in 1954 from Grand Central Galleries in order to insure continuous representation at the oldest and most prestigious international art exhibition in the world. The Art Institute of Chicago was invited by the Museum to organize the American representation for the 28th Biennale in 1956 ("American Artists Paint the City," 46 works by 35 artists) and the Baltimore Museum of Art was invited to organize the 30th Biennale in 1960 (50 works by Philip Guston, Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline and Theodore Roszak).

In 1958 the Museum of Modern Art selected work by Seymour Lipton, Mark Rothko, David Smith and Mark Tobey for the 29th Biennale. In 1954 paintings by Ben Shahn, Willem de Kooning, and one major sculpture each by Gaston Lachaise, Ibram Lassaw and David Smith were selected by the Museum for the 27th Biennale.

Before the Museum purchased the Pavilion, a one-man Marin show was presented in 1950 and work by Stuart Davis, Edward Hopper, Yasuo Kuniyoshi and Alexander Calder in 1952.

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Photographs and further information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.