

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

## NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

No. 80  
Thursday, November 12, 1964  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON STAR AND POST

Two paintings by the Washington artist, Merris Louis, are now on view in an exhibition of seven recently acquired American paintings at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street in New York. The larger of the two paintings, an untitled work completed in 1959, represents the sombre grandeur and mystery of Louis' style in the late '50s. It was purchased out of the memorial exhibition of Louis' work at the Guggenheim Museum in 1963. The brilliant Third Element was painted in 1962, the year of the artist's death.

Mr. Louis was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1912, studied at the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, and lived, for many years, in the nation's capital. His death in 1962 cut short the career of a greatly talented painter whose work was just beginning to win recognition, thanks largely to the critic Clement Greenberg.

His works were first exhibited at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York in 1957 and had been shown in Milan, Paris, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart in recent years. Louis' paintings were also included in the exhibition of Four Germinal Painters in the United States Pavilion at the XXXII Venice Biennale last summer.

The current exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art includes works by Jules Olitski, Larry Poons, Jack Tworkov and Paul Jenkins, all abstract and all painted within the past five years. The works are being shown in a new gallery designated for continuous showings of recent acquisitions; this is the second in the series, which was inaugurated with a show of recently acquired paintings by South Asian artists when the Museum re-opened last May.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. CI 5-8900.