

219

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 41
Thursday, April 22, 1965
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The largest survey of recent Japanese avant-garde painting and sculpture ever to be shown outside Japan will open at the San Francisco Museum of Art on April 29 as a joint presentation of the California museum and the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art of New York. Selected by Museum of Modern Art Curators William S. Lieberman and Dorothy C. Miller, the exhibition of 106 works will travel throughout this country and Canada for the next two years under the Council's auspices. It will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art in New York in the fall of 1966.

The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture includes work by 46 artists. Although the majority live in Japan, artists working in New York, Paris, Milan and Rome are also shown. Half of the artists are 40 or younger and the majority of work was executed in the 1960s. With some exceptions, better-known artists are represented by a major work, younger artists by several examples.

The 60 paintings, 36 sculptures and 10 assemblages in the show were lent by private collectors, museums, galleries and artists. Oil on canvas and wood, lacquered and cut steel, terra cotta and ceramic, stone, wood, cast cement, plaster, polyester-impregnated cloth, cast aluminum and commercial sacking are among the materials used.

Although there has been an increasing awareness of the remarkable developments in Japanese painting and sculpture of the past decade - largely through representations of Japanese art in the major international exhibitions at São Paulo, Venice, Pittsburgh and New York - many of the leading Japanese artists have never been shown in this country and the younger generation is almost totally unknown. Rather than revealing a strong national identity, most of the work demonstrates the distinctive individuality which characterizes art today all over the world.

The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture is one of 14 exhibitions currently circulating in this country and abroad under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The Council, a non-profit membership organization of 140 community leaders from various parts of the United States and eight

more...

foreign countries, was organized in 1953 to encourage better understanding among people of different countries by sponsoring the exchange of exhibitions of the visual arts. The members will hold their spring meeting in San Francisco to coincide with the opening of The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture exhibition.

The Museum of Modern Art's concern with the art of Japan has been reflected in exhibitions, publications and film showings for many years. In 1940 the Museum presented its first exhibition devoted entirely to Japanese art, The Work of Sharaku. In 1954 a Japanese House and Garden based on 16th and 17th century prototypes were built in the outdoor exhibition area. That same year exhibitions of Japanese Calligraphy and Japanese Pottery were shown. The Architecture of Japan circulated throughout this country and Canada from 1953 to 1958. In the '60s Modern Japanese Prints toured more than 18 cities.

In 1954 the Museum sent to Japan a memorial exhibition of the works of Yasuo Kuniyoshi and in 1957, Twentieth Century Design in America and Europe: Selections from the Collections of The Museum of Modern Art was exhibited there. The Museum 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. Threerecent exhibitions sent to Japan under the International Council auspices were Drawings by Arshile Gorky, shown in Tokyo in 1963 and Visionary Architecture which recently concluded a tour of six cities. Studies for Picasso's Guernica were sent to the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, in 1962.

Future plans of the Council include sending a major exhibition of American painting to Japan.

NOTE: A full release will be issued from San Francisco next week.

Checklist, photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. CIRCLE 5-8900.