

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An unprecedented art loan from the British National collections of paintings and watercolors by the great English artist J..M. W. Turner will arrive in New York aboard the United States at 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 4 at Pier 86. They are destined for major exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art opening to the public on March 23.

The 32 oils and 58 watercolors have been packed in 19 crates and occupy special stowage in the Bullion Room of the ship. Accompanying them on their first ocean voyage is Lawrence Gowing, Keeper of British Paintings. He and his paintings will be met at the dock by Monroe Wheeler, Director of the Turner exhibition at the Museum, and other Museum staff members.

The works of art will be transported to the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, in two vans carrying armed guards. Customs officials will inspect the crates on Monday morning when they are unpacked.

Many of the Turner pictures have not been exhibited since the artist completed them during the 1830s and '40s. Turner died 115 years ago, Gowing says in the catalog for the Museum show, but some of his pictures look as if they were painted yesterday. "These pictures, from the last twenty years of Turner's life, revealed potentialities in painting which have only appeared again in our own time."

The exhibition, the most complete Turner show ever held outside England, was arranged with the assistance of the British Foreign Office, The National Gallery, The Tate Gallery and The British Museum. When Turner died in 1851, famous, rich and idiosyncratic, he left the British nation approximately 300 oils and 19,000 watercolors and drawings. For the most part, the revolutionary pictures were not placed on exhibition until the present century and some of the watercolors in the Museum show have not previously been shown, even in England.

The British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Dean, will head the list of distinguished guests at a black tie dinner and preview at the Museum on March 21.

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.
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