

The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 125

Wednesday, October 19, 1966
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. An exhibition selected by Dorothy C. Miller and William S. Lieberman. With an essay by William S. Lieberman. 116 pages, 136 illustrations (13 in color). Hardbound, \$5.95; paperbound, \$2.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; hardbound edition distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc.

THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE, just published by The Museum of Modern Art, presents the striking postwar shift from traditional styles of expression and the lively developments in contemporary Japanese art. Issued in conjunction with the largest exhibition of contemporary Japanese painting and sculpture ever presented in this country, THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE surveys work done between 1960 and 1965 by forty-six Japanese artists, all identifiable with international currents in art.

The exhibition has been selected by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Museum Collections, and William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Museum of Modern Art, and will be on view in New York through December 26 as part of an extensive tour of the United States presented under the auspices of the Museum's International Council.

THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE is a profusely illustrated catalog, reproducing works by all the artists in the exhibition (including 13 in full color). It includes photographs of the artists and brief biographies in addition to a complete checklist of the exhibition.

In the introductory essay, William S. Lieberman traces the history of Japanese art, discussing the frequent foreign influences and contacts which, throughout the centuries, have stimulated new developments in Japan. Mr. Lieberman observes: "Although the exhibition is in no way a definitive survey of modern art in Japan, it nevertheless indicates some directions that seem especially vital today....If one may predict the future from the past, few can doubt that in the twentieth century, as so often before in her history, Japan will benefit by international contacts and stimuli from abroad, and from her native genius will produce an art distinctively her own."

(more)

Mr. Lieberman has travelled in Japan extensively and has studied the works and environments of many artists. He discusses the interaction among artists, dealers, museums, art patrons, artists' associations, and entrepreneurs which contributes to the present-day milieu of artistic activity in Japan.

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 had not been shown in this country before the exhibition was organized, and the younger generation was almost totally unknown. All the artists in the exhibition were born in Japan; about half now live in New York, Paris, Milan and Rome. With some exceptions, better known artists are represented by a major work, younger artists, many of whom are in their 20's, by several examples.

Dorothy C. Miller is the author of Fourteen Americans (1946), Twelve Americans (1956), and Americans 1963, published by The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Lieberman, the author of monographs on Ernst, Matisse, and Picasso, has also organized two exhibitions of Japanese prints for the Museum.

THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE is published in two editions: paper-bound, \$2.95, and hardbound, \$5.95, both available by mail from the Museum or at the Museum Bookstore. Trade distribution of the hardbound edition is through Doubleday and Co., Inc.

Review copies, photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Patricia B. Kaplan, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.