

The Museum of Modern Art

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DRAWINGS: RECENT ACQUISITIONS
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
February 18 - March 30, 1969

Wall Label

This exhibition presents a selection from about three hundred drawings which have entered the collection since recent acquisitions were shown in the summer of 1966. The acquisitions range from drawings of the school of Paris to recent works by contemporary European and American painters and sculptors.

Several drawings by Henri Matisse are important additions to the collection. A major acquisition is a sheet of studies by Pablo Picasso dating from 1909. The sketches of nudes relate closely to paintings, drawings and prints he made after abandoning the overt influence of African and Iberian art that had dominated his work during the preceding years. The bowl of fruit on the table is the same as the one depicted in the painting, Fruit Dish, of the winter of 1908-9, in the Museum's collection, which in its exploration of the volume and tonality of Cézanne anticipates the birth of Analytic Cubism.

Excellent examples of the work of Balthus, Dubuffet, Kandinsky, Klee, and Kupka have enriched the Museum's holdings by these artists. A group of automatic drawings by the Surrealist painters contribute to historical documentation of the movement.

Recent gifts of the artists are drawings by the pioneer Abstract Expressionist painters, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell. A drawing by Claes Oldenburg, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Oldenburg, relates to illustrations he made for a book of poems by Frank O'Hara published by the Museum. Numbers, a drawing of 1966 by Jasper Johns given by Mrs. Bliss Parkinson in honor of René d'Harnoncourt, is the first by this artist to enter the collection. Two drawings by Alfred Leslie are the result of experiment with oriental concepts of perfection in the balance of lights and darks.

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Also included is the work of two British artists, Richard Hamilton and Joe Tilson, who were influential in establishing the direction of British art during the 1960's. Hamilton's drawings are studies for fiberglass and cellulose constructions he made of The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

In an adjacent gallery is a group of drawings and watercolors by Jean Dubuffet, gifts of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin and gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. Ranging in date from 1943 through 1966, they reveal the rich diversity of his production as a draftsman.

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