

The Museum of Modern Art

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No. 84

Monday, June 16, 1969
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"The New American Painting and Sculpture: The First Generation" will be the subject of an illustrated lecture by April McMenamin at The Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, June 19, at 12 noon.

Miss McMenamin, Curatorial Assistant in the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, is on a Ford Foundation Fellowship in Museum Training. She received her master's degree in fine arts at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Miss McMenamin will discuss the exhibition in the second floor galleries, the largest exhibition ever assembled of works by artists of the "first generation" of new American painters and sculptors. The 157 works, all of which are either in the Museum collection or promised to it as future gifts, opens on Wednesday and will remain on view through October 5.

William S. Rubin, Curator of Painting and Sculpture and Director of the exhibition comments:

Since 1945 America has been the scene of a succession of artists of world importance and prominence. The role of rescuing American art from its heretofore provincial situation and placing it at the center of the modern tradition fell to the generation of artists shown in this exhibition. Almost all the artists represented here belong to the generation born before the end of the first World War, and all established their mature styles within the decade following the end of the second. The chronology of their developments, however, varied considerably. Jackson Pollock, born 1912, made important contributions to the art of the early forties, whereas Morris Louis, who was born in the same year, arrived at his mature style -- the so called veil paintings -- only in 1954, David Smith, born in 1906, made important sculptures by 1945, while Reuben Nakian, born in 1897, made his first monumental sculpture in 1954. The only artists in this exhibition not of the generation born before 1918 are Hans Hofmann (b.1880), who became an important painter only late in life, and Theodoros Stamos (b.1922), who made a significant contribution to the art of the forties as a very young man.

The lunch-time lectures in the Museum Auditorium are devoted to various aspects of the Museum's collection and temporary exhibitions. They are open to the public, and entrance is included in the Museum's regular admission fee.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Associate Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 956-7501, 7299.