

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

193
No. 112
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November, 1970

Advance Fact Sheet

- Title: FOUR AMERICANS IN PARIS: THE COLLECTIONS OF GERTRUDE STEIN AND HER FAMILY
- Sponsorship: This exhibition was made possible by a grant from Alcoa Foundation.
- Dates: December 19, 1970 - March 1, 1971
- Exhibition Director: Margaret Potter, Associate Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture.
- Traveling Plans: In slightly different versions, the exhibition will be shown at the Baltimore Museum of Art (April 4 - May 30, 1971), the San Francisco Museum of Art (September 15 - October 31, 1971) and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario.
- Contents : About 225 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures acquired by Gertrude, Leo, Michael and Sarah Stein in Paris when they were early patrons of such pioneers of 20th century art as Matisse, Picasso and Gris. Older masters whose work they also bought include Cezanne, Manet, Daumier, Bonnard and Renoir. Works have been lent to the exhibition from public and private collections all over the world. Many have not been seen in this country before, including those from the estate of Gertrude Stein, which were bought two years ago by a group of American collectors. Also of special interest are the loans from the Hermitage in Leningrad: Picasso's Three Women (1908) and Nude with Drapery (1907).

Many artists painted or drew portraits of the Steins and the exhibition includes portraits of Gertrude Stein by Picasso, Christian Berard, Jo Davidson, Jacques Lipchitz, Louis Marcoussis, Picabia, Tchelitchev and Vallotton. Matisse, particularly close to Sarah and Michael Stein, did portraits of both.

One gallery will be devoted to photographs and other documents about the family and their friends which included writers, composers and poets as well as painters and sculptors. A model of a house Michael Stein commissioned Le Corbusier to build on the outskirts of Paris will be shown along with drawings and plans. A selection of pre-Columbian objects once owned by Leo Stein will also be shown. Picasso's designs for needlepoint, executed by Alice B. Toklas for two small 18th century chairs, will also be included.

This extraordinary family, who created what has been called the first museum of modern art, traded pictures back and forth -- among themselves, with their artist friends and with dealers. "In later years," Leo Stein wrote, "people often said to me that they wished they were able to buy such things for such prices, and I had to remind them that they also were in Paris then and had more money than I had. But they, to use Picasso's words, had to wait until the cogs were rusty, or -- it would perhaps be better to say -- they were worn smooth and ran easily."

(more)

Two landscapes in the show by Picasso mark a significant stage in the development of cubism. Also included are several studies for Les Demoiselles d'Avignon (1907) (owned by The Museum of Modern Art since 1939) which was a major influence on the cubist generation. Studies for the Nude with Drapery (1907) which is being lent by the Hermitage, also are included.

Catalog: An illustrated catalog which discusses the collecting activities of Gertrude Stein and her family will be issued in connection with the exhibition. The publication is a series of essays by Douglas Cooper, Lucille Golson, Irene Gordon, Ellen B. Hirschland and Leon Katz. 172 pages; 75 illustrations (8 in color); paperbound \$5.95.

Poster and Banners: Designed by Robert Indiana

Additional information, checklist, black and white photographs, transparencies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, and Diana Goldin, Coordinator, Press Services, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019. (212) 956-7501; 7297.

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