

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 106  
FOR RELEASE:  
OCTOBER 30, 1974

ALCOA GRANT AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AID ENABLES MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO SEND MASTERWORK EXHIBITION TO SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

A generous grant from Alcoa Foundation and the agreement of the Australian government to be responsible for the risks ordinarily covered by commercial insurance have made it possible for the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art to organize and send an exhibition of 20th-century masterpieces to Australia this spring.

The Alcoa Foundation grant, the largest the Museum has ever received for an exhibition overseas, will cover costs of assembling and packing 60 master paintings from public and private collections. The cost of private insurance, however, would have been prohibitive but for the indemnity arrangement with the Australian government. In addition, the Australian sponsor, the Visual Arts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts, is supplying generous financial assistance for air transportation and other costs.

The exhibition, selected by William S. Lieberman, will open at the recently expanded Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney on April 10 when the International Council meets there. It will then be shown at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne from mid-June through July.

The announcement was made at the Annual Meeting of the International Council held in New York City October 28 and 29. The meeting, conducted by recently-elected Chairman August Heckscher, was attended by 97 members of the Council from 13 countries. Founded 21 years ago the Council supports the International Program of The Museum of Modern Art. In 1973-1974 15

(more)

262

exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, architecture, photographs, prints and drawings and films prepared by the Museum staff are touring in Asia, Latin America and Europe under Council auspices. Joanne Stern (Mrs. Alfred R.) is Council President; Waldo Rasmussen, Director of the International Program.

Modern Masterworks will trace the development of the modern tradition from its origins in the late 19th century through the death of Matisse in 1954. It is expected to have a wide appeal as, while there is much interest in Australia in 20th-century art, Australian museums lack great international collections of the modern movement.

The Museum of Modern Art has sent 17 exhibitions to Australia since 1955. Two Decades of American Painting directed by Mr. Rasmussen, was received with great interest in 1967, and Some Recent American Art, selected by Jennifer Licht, has just completed a successful tour of five Australian and New Zealand museums. Another major show directed by Mr. Lieberman, From Cézanne through Picasso: 100 Drawings, was shown in Australia and New Zealand in 1971-72.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019. Telephone 956-7504; -7501  
\*\*\*\*\*