

The Museum of Modern Art

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Modern Masters: Manet to Matisse, a loan exhibition of 110 paintings chronicling nearly a century of European art, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from August 4 through September 28. The survey begins with Edouard Manet in 1861 and closes soon after the death of Henri Matisse in 1954.

Modern Masters: Manet to Matisse, originally selected for two showings in Australia, was made possible by the generous support of Alcoa Foundation. The exhibition was presented in Sydney and Melbourne under the auspices of The Museum of Modern Art's International Council and with the assistance of the Australia Council and a special indemnity for insurance voted by the Commonwealth of Australia. Last spring, during the two four-week showings in Sydney and Melbourne, the exhibition was seen by more than 400,000 visitors. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the continent's largest daily newspaper, Modern Masters "is quite simply, the most important exhibition ever to visit Australia.... Profound thanks."

Three factors combine to make possible a third and final showing in New York: first, the unanimous response of public and private lenders, all of whom consented to the extension of their loans; second, an additional grant from Alcoa Foundation; third, the Australian government's agreement to continue the special insurance indemnity to cover the return of the paintings to their owners after the additional showing.

Led by The Museum of Modern Art in New York and its counterpart, the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris, twenty-six museums here and abroad are lenders to the exhibition. Other museum lenders are:

(more)

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The Baltimore Museum of Art
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 The Brooklyn Museum
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo
 The Art Institute of Chicago
 Cincinnati Art Museum
 The Cleveland Museum of Art
 The Detroit Institute of Arts
 Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford
 The Tate Gallery, London
 Milwaukee Art Center

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven
 The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
 Philadelphia Museum of Art
 The Art Museum, Princeton University
 The St. Louis Art Museum
 Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio
 San Francisco Museum of Art
 Norton Gallery of Art, West Palm Beach
 Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute,
 Williamstown

From Australia, the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney and the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne have lent four paintings, masterworks by Manet, Signac, Bonnard and Modigliani. Loans from thirty-six private collectors in the United States, Great Britain, Mexico and France include Matisse's fauve masterpiece The Young Sailor (1904) and the final and climactic version of Picasso's Women of Algiers (1955).

At the Australian showings, the four most popular paintings were: Renoir's Monet Painting in His Garden (1874); Gauguin's Man with an Axe painted in Tahiti in 1891; Balla's futurist Dynamism of a Dog on a Leash (1912); and Dali's large, seldom seen Madonna which recapitulates his interests of the last twenty-five years.

The exhibition, directed by William S. Lieberman, is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog.

A series of films about some of the artists in the exhibition, also sent to Australia, will be screened in the Museum's Auditorium Wednesdays at noon and Thursdays at 2:00 during the New York showing.

 Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501; 7504.
