

The Museum of Modern Art

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NEW ACQUISITIONS OF MODERN DRAWINGS ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Recent gifts to the Museum's collection of drawings will be shown on the first floor of The Museum of Modern Art from September 5 through November 9. Among the selection are works by American, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Mexican, and Swiss artists.

Four gifts of The Lauder Foundation are Erich Heckel's drawing of a Girl Reading (1912), a small and extraordinary Woman (1952) by de Kooning, Matisse's portrait of Yvonne Landsberg (1914), and a study for a sculpture (1946) by Isamu Noguchi. Also, drawings by de Chirico, Giacometti, Jawlensky, and Rivera have been given to the Museum in honor of its second director, René d'Harnoncourt, who died in 1968. Other artists included in the selection are Max Ernst, Lyonel Feininger, Bart van der Leek, Fernand Léger, Modigliani, Szafran and Vordemberge-Gildewart.

In announcing the acquisitions, William S. Lieberman, Director, Department of Drawings, says: "As is so often true of drawings, several included in the exhibition relate to works in other media. The sheets by Ernst, Feininger and Léger are studies for paintings in oil; those by Giacometti, Modigliani, and Noguchi concern pieces of sculpture in bronze and in stone.

"The small head by Matisse is perhaps a tracing by the artist himself after a photograph of a larger drawing which had been commissioned by the sitter's brother. Two other portraits reveal unexpected aspects of de Chirico and Rivera. De Chirico's young boy was drawn in Rome soon after his return from Paris. The seated woman, unfortunately unidentified, by Rivera was drawn in Paris soon after his arrival from Mexico.

(more)

"Bart van der Leck and Friedrich Vordemberge-Gildewart, Dutch and German artists, have not previously been represented in the Museum's collections. Both of their drawings reflect the influence of Cubism beyond France, specifically on de Stijl, a group of artists in The Netherlands organized by Theo van Doesburg in 1917."

Mr. Lieberman is also the Director of two other exhibitions currently on view at the Museum: A Jacques Villon Centennial, an exhibition of prints, in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries and Modern Masters: Manet to Matisse, an exhibition of paintings, in the recently named René d'Harnoncourt Galleries on the first floor.

The Department of Drawings, the Museum's newest curatorial department, was established in 1971 upon Mr. Lieberman's recommendation.

The Museum of Modern Art gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts.

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