

The Museum of Modern Art

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

ADVANCE FACT SHEET

THE NATURAL PARADISE: PAINTING IN AMERICA 1800-1950

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, New York City, October 1 - November 30, 1976

SPONSOR: The National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a Federal agency

DIRECTOR: Kynaston McShine, Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS: A survey of the tradition of Romanticism through 150 years of American painting presented on the occasion of the Bicentennial. Includes approximately 160 works ranging from the landscapes of George Inness and Thomas Cole, to the realism of Edward Hopper, and to Barnett Newman's and Mark Rothko's attempts to capture "The Sublime" in totally abstract terms. The exhibition will present many previously unfamiliar works from institutions and collections in this country and abroad. It will be in the Museum's Rene d'Harnoncourt Galleries.

Through the nineteenth century, the idea of landscape and nature greatly influenced the American artistic vision, and this influence has continued in the twentieth century as a romantic attitude among many artists, despite the variety of styles, ambitions and intentions that have motivated them. The exhibition will focus on an exploration of this American Romantic tradition which was founded in the mysteries of nature and can be measured, in painting, by poetic content and compositional subtleties of light and color; and it will celebrate the achievements of artists who have added an extraordinary dimension to American history and culture. To be shown are major works by Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Asher B. Durand, Frederic Church, Caleb Bingham, John Frederick Kensett, Fitz Hugh Lane, Albert P. Ryder, Martin Johnson Heade, Whistler, Arthur Dove, Charles Burchfield, Morris Graves, Milton Avery, Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Clyfford Still and Jackson Pollock. The selection will also include individual works by other painters, some well-known and others less familiar, in order to give full scope to the study of the romantic element in American art.

BOOK: The Natural Paradise: Painting in America 1800-1950 edited by Kynaston McShine, with contributions by Barbara Novak, John Wilmerding and Robert Rosenblum. Approximately 176 pp., 125 illustrations (including 16 color plates).

OPENINGS: Press Preview -- September 29
Public Opening -- October 1

July 1976

Photographs, color transparencies, additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., NY 10019 Phone: (212) 956-7295; 7501.

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