

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1985

MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC EXHIBITION

This book of essays and exhibition catalog, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec: Images of the 1890s, reaffirms Lautrec's significance in the history of modern art and emphasizes his brilliant career as a master printmaker. The catalog features several important articles that illuminate the achievements and personality of the artist, as well as the historical context in which he worked. This splendid volume contains 204 black-and-white and 84 color reproductions of rare prints, drawings, working sketches, and related paintings. The publication thoroughly investigates Lautrec's legendary stylistic and technical innovations, as well as the social and artistic developments in which he played a role.

In her introduction, Riva Castleman, director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books at the Museum, discusses the elements that contributed to the success of Lautrec's color lithographs, and offers insights into the influences that inspired him. Wolfgang Wittrock, guest curator of the exhibition which this book accompanies, has prepared the annotated catalog of the artist's lithographs and posters and the paintings and drawings related to them. Mr. Wittrock, an expert in prints of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, has recently completed a catalogue raisonné of Lautrec's prints to be published this fall.

In addition to the substantial contribution by its editors, Ms. Castleman and Mr. Wittrock, the book includes a variety of informative

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interpretations of Lautrec's impact. Matthias Arnold, a German scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century European art and author of a recent book on Lautrec, has written an essay, "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Art of His Century." Arnold discusses Lautrec in the context of leading artists of his time, including Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, Vincent van Gogh, Edouard Vuillard, and others. Julia Frey, assistant professor of French and Italian at the University of Colorado and specialist in nineteenth-century literature and the arts, has contributed a perceptive psychological portrait of the artist, "Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec: A Biography of the Artist." Philip Dennis Cate, director of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University and authority on lithography in the nineteenth century, has prepared an essay, "The Popularization of Lautrec," which examines printing and publishing in France in the 1890s. These essays not only clarify the forces that shaped Lautrec's development as an artist, they also suggest how dramatically he influenced the direction of modern art.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec: Images of the 1890s concludes with an illustrated chronology of the ten years during which Lautrec made lithographs and posters, complemented by parallel cultural and political events of the final decade of the nineteenth century. Its dimensions are 9½ x 10½ inches and it will be available in the Museum Store. Clothbound, \$60.00; paperbound, \$22.50 (\$27.50 after February 15, 1986).

The exhibition is made possible by a grant from Mobil. An indemnity for the exhibition has been provided by the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

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For further information or photographic materials contact Jeanne Collins or Jessica Schwartz, Department of Public Information 212/708-9750.

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RIVA CASTLEMAN

Riva Castleman has been director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books since 1976. She joined the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Museum of Modern Art in 1963, and since that time she has been directly involved in most of the Museum's exhibitions of prints and illustrated books.

Ms. Castleman has directed exhibitions of prints by Josef Albers, Arakawa, Jim Dine, Jasper Johns, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Edvard Munch, and Pablo Picasso. In 1973 she organized a comprehensive survey, Modern Art in Prints, that was subsequently exhibited in twenty-three cities in Australia, New Zealand, India, Iran, and Japan. A second important traveling exhibition, Modern Artists as Illustrators, toured South America and the Far East from 1981 to 1984.

The author of several books, Ms. Castleman has published scholarly and critical articles in a range of international periodicals. Her most recent book, American Impressions: Prints Since Pollock, will be published by Alfred A. Knopf in November. Her other publications include Contemporary Prints, Prints of the Twentieth Century: A History, Printed Art, and Prints from Blocks. Ms. Castleman has been a member of juries for several biennials, including San Juan, Ljubljana, and Tokyo biennials. She was a member of the jury of the 9th and 10th International Exhibitions of Graphics in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, the 4th and 5th International Biennials of Graphics in Krakow, Poland, the 10th International Biennial of Prints in Tokyo, and the 3rd British International Print Biennial at Bradford, England. She is also a frequent lecturer.

A native of Chicago, Ms. Castleman received her undergraduate degree in art history from the University of Iowa, and she continued graduate studies at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa,

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the Grolier Club, and the Print Council of America, and is a former fellowship recipient at the Corning Museum of Glass and the Tamarind Lithography Workshop.

Before joining The Museum of Modern Art, Ms. Castleman spent four years in the Department of Decorative Arts at the Art Institute of Chicago and two years as curator of the California Historical Society in San Francisco. From 1958 to 1962 she was associated with John Fleming of New York, the antiquarian book dealer.

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WOLFGANG WITTROCK

Wolfgang Wittrock, guest curator of HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC, is distinguished for his expertise in rare nineteenth- and early twentieth-century prints. Since 1970 he has been an author and scholar, as well as a consultant to several German museums; and in 1973 he established his own firm devoted to prints from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He has become recognized for his exhibitions, publications, and scholarly contributions.

Mr. Wittrock has organized exhibitions of works by Honoré Daumier, Paul Gauguin, Ludwig Kirchner, Edouard Manet, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, Odilon Redon, Yves Tanguy, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. He has acted as a consultant to an equally impressive number of cultural institutions in Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Zurich, Lucerne, Munich, and other European cities.

From 1979 to 1983 Mr. Wittrock conducted extensive research on the prints of Lautrec, which resulted in a major book, Toulouse-Lautrec: The Complete Prints, published by Philip Wilson Publishers Limited for Sotheby Publications. This catalogue raisonné describes in detail all known proofs, trial proofs, states, editions, and re-editions of the 368 prints created between 1891 and 1900, and adds an entirely new dimension to the Lautrec literature. In addition, he has written exhibition catalogs on Toulouse-Lautrec, Edvard Munch, and Paul Gauguin, and articles for an international range of scholarly journals.

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CHRONOLOGY 1891 - 1901

This chronology is limited to the ten years in which Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec made lithographs and posters, and provides a sampling of cultural and political events of the final decade of the nineteenth century.

FRANCE

THE WORLD

1891

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec creates his first poster, Moulin Rouge, depicting La Goulue and her dancing partner Valentin Le Désossé

The journal La revue blanche is founded by Alexandre Natanson

Claude Monet exhibits Haystack paintings at Durand-Ruel gallery

James McNeill Whistler's Portrait of My Mother is bought by the French government

General Georges Boulanger commits suicide

Former prefect of the Seine Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann dies in poverty, January 11

Painter Jean-Louis-Ernest Meissonier dies, January 31

Painter Georges Seurat dies, March 29

Poet Arthur Rimbaud dies, November 10

Beginning of wireless telegraphy

Theo van Gogh dies in Holland, only one year after the death of his brother Vincent

International Copyright Act passed by United States Congress

Opening of London-to-Paris telephone line

Painter Paul Gauguin arrives in Tahiti, June 8

1892

Henri Matisse begins studies with Gustave Moreau at Ecole des Beaux-Arts

First Salon des Rose + Croix, founded by Sâr Péladan, opens with fanfare by composer Erik Satie

Claude Monet begins Rouen Cathedral paintings

Debut of dancer Loie Fuller at the Folies-Bergère

Paul Gauguin paints Manao Tupapua (Spirit of the Dead Watching) in Tahiti

Pan-German League founded

Young Turk Movement formed in Geneva

George Bernard Shaw begins writing plays

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Claude Debussy composes L'Après-midi d'une faune

Bombs explode on the rue de Clichy; subsequent arrest and execution of anarchist bomber Ravachol, March - July

Cholera epidemic, July - October

1893

Prints by Kitagawa Utamaro and Ando Hiroshige shown at Durand-Ruel gallery

Sarah Bernhardt appears in Phèdre at the Théâtre Renaissance

Paul Gauguin returns from Tahiti

Aristide Bruant appears in his cabaret, the Mirliton

Ambroise Vollard opens first gallery in Paris

Aurélien-François Lugné-Poë founds Théâtre de l'Oeuvre

Ferdinand and Charles de Lesseps and Charles Eiffel receive prison sentences for their roles in the Panama Canal scandal

Lautrec depicts dancer Jane Avril on cover of L'Estampe originale

Novelist Guy de Maupassant dies, July 6

1894

First Salon des Cent poster exhibition

Lautrec paints The Salon on the rue des Moulins

Gustave Caillebotte's Impressionist collection rejected by the Luxembourg Museum

Lumière brothers invent the cinematograph

Captain Alfred Dreyfus convicted of treason

Lautrec illustrates Yvette Guilbert by Gustave Geffroy

President Sadi Carnot assassinated

1895

Paul Cézanne paints portrait of Gustave Geffroy

Les Vingts, the Belgian avant-garde group begun in 1884, is disbanded and succeeded by Libre Esthétique

Chicago World Exhibition

Henry Ford builds his first automobile

Grover Cleveland begins second term as 24th president of the United States

Painter Joan Miró born in Barcelona, April 20

The Yellow Book, a British review, begins publication

Thomas Alva Edison opens kinetoscope theater in New York

The Dual Alliance is signed by France and Russia

Pan, a German review, begins publication

Marcelle Lender appears in the operetta Chilpéric

First public film showing in Paris held at Hotel Scribe

Dreyfus sent to Devil's Island

Scandal caused by death of Max Lebaudy

Chemist Louis Pasteur dies, September 28

H. G. Wells writes The Time Machine

Physicist Wilhelm C. Roentgen discovers X rays

Publication of Studies of Hysteria by Sigmund Freud

Bulgarian premier Stephan Stambulov assassinated

Paul Gauguin returns to Tahiti

1896

Lautrec's print series Elles shown at Salon des Cent

S. Bing shows first exhibition of work by Edvard Munch at Maison de l'Art Nouveau

Marcel Proust's first book of short stories is published

Oscar Wilde's play Salomé is performed in Paris

France annexes Madagascar

Czar Nicholas II visits Paris

Jimmy Michael, English bicyclist, races at Tristan Bernard's velodrome

Poet Paul Verlaine dies, January 8

Novelist Edmond de Goncourt dies, July 16

Marchese Guglielmo Marconi receives first patent for radio-telegraphy

Publication of The Jewish State by Theodor Herzl

Nobel Prize established

Giacomo Puccini composes La Bohème

Revolution in Nicaragua precipitates landing of United States Marines, March 20

Poet and artist William Morris dies, October 3

1897

Lautrec moves to his last studio on avenue Frochot

Henri Rousseau paints The Sleeping Gypsy

Physicist Antoine Henri Becquerel discovers the electron

Rodolphe Salis, owner of the Chat Noir cabaret, dies

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

United States annexes Hawaii

Brussels World Exhibition

William McKinley becomes 25th president of the United States

1898

Emile Zola writes J'Accuse, is tried and convicted of libel, and flees to England

Colonel Henry admits to having forged a document in the Dreyfus case and commits suicide

Empress Elizabeth of Austria is assassinated

United States battleship Maine explodes in Havana harbor, February 15

United States declares war on Spain, April 25

Chemists Marie and Pierre Curie discover radium

Sculptor Auguste Rodin finishes Monument to Balzac

Poet Stéphane Mallarmé dies, September 9

Painter Pierre Puvis de Chavannes dies, October 24

Treaty of Paris signed by Spain and the United States, December 10

Artist Aubrey Beardsley dies, March 16

Statesman Otto von Bismark dies, July 30

1899

Lautrec is treated in a sanatorium for eleven weeks

Painter Alfred Sisley dies, January 29

Painter Rosa Bonheur dies, May 25

Boer War between the British and Dutch begins in South Africa

First Peace Conference meets at The Hague and establishes permanent court of arbitration among 26 nations

First magnetic recording of sound

Novelist Ernest Hemingway born

1900

Universal Exhibition opens and is visited by over 50 million people

Pablo Picasso goes to Paris for the first time, paints Le Moulin de la Galette

Inauguration of the Paris Métro, with entrances designed by Hector Guimard

Oscar Wilde dies, November 30

Publication of Interpretation of Dreams by Sigmund Freud

Max Planck postulates quantum theory

Boxer Rebellion in China against Europeans

Umberto I of Italy assassinated

Philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche dies, August 25

1901

Pablo Picasso's first exhibition at Ambroise Vollard gallery

Paul Gauguin's book Noa-Noa is published

Painter Jean Dubuffet born

René F. A. Sully-Prudhomme wins first Nobel Prize for literature

Lautrec dies, at Malromé, near Bordeaux, September 9

Queen Victoria dies and is succeeded by Edward VII

Massacre of students in St. Petersburg

Composer Giuseppe Verdi dies, January 27

President William McKinley assassinated September 6

Theodore Roosevelt becomes 26th president of the United States, September 14