

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF MAJOR GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. M. BURDEN

The Museum of Modern Art is very pleased to announce the gift of eleven masterworks from the estate of the late William A. M. Burden, noted collector, philanthropist, and longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum. The works were formally accepted into the Museum's collection at the meeting of its Painting and Sculpture Committee on October 25. They range from major paintings by Claude Monet and Georges-Pierre Seurat through important sculptures by Jean Arp and Constantin Brancusi. "The Museum, its Board of Trustees, and staff are enormously grateful for the gift of these extraordinary works of art. The gift reflects not only the connoisseurship and generosity of William A. M. Burden, but also the generosity of his widow, Mrs. Margaret Burden, and the continuing thoughtfulness of the entire Burden family toward this institution," said Richard E. Oldenburg, director of the Museum.

"The Burden bequest is one of the greatest gifts the Museum has ever received," said William Rubin, director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture. "It is comprised of nothing but masterpieces, ranging from earlier twentieth-century masters (e.g. Picasso's Two Acrobats with a Dog) to great works of the inter-war period (the magnificent large Mondrian, Trafalgar Square) to key works of the Abstract Expressionists (such as Gorky's Diary of a Seducer). The quality of these works alone would assure them a permanent place on the walls of the Museum's collection galleries. But it can be said of many of the Burden pictures that they also fill lacunae, and function in a very crucial way to cohere groups of pictures we already have. Thus, for example, Mondrian's Trafalgar Square mediates visually between that

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artist's Broadway Boogie Woogie and earlier Mondrians in the collection, insofar as it contains small blocks of color reminiscent of the former, and an architecture of black bands held in common with the latter. Broadway Boogie Woogie, which had previously seemed separated from Mondrian's development by a large gap, now appears as a seamless outgrowth of his ideas."

Other works given include Ptolemy by Jean Arp, Young Bird and Bird in Space by Constantin Brancusi, The Channel at Gravelines, Evening by Georges-Pierre Seurat, The Windows by Robert Delaunay, Corona by Claude Monet, and Still life with Red Bull's Head and Mirror and Cherries by Pablo Picasso.

William A. M. Burden, a former president of the Museum, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1943 until his death on October 10, 1984. He was elected president in 1953, from which position he resigned in order to serve as Ambassador to Belgium for the United States from 1959 until 1961. He was chairman of the Board from 1961 to 1962, when he was reelected to the presidency, serving through 1965. He continued as an active member of the Board and of several of its key committees into the eighties.

The Museum has recognized Mr. Burden's dedication and generosity over the years by naming in his honor the room within the Painting and Sculpture galleries in which are exhibited the Brancusi sculptures he gave the Museum.

No. 106

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

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GIFTS OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. M. BURDEN - 1985

- 316
- ARP, Jean,
Ptolemy, 1953. Limestone, 42" (106.7 cm) high, on black marble base, 35 x 12 x 12" (88.8 x 30.5 x 30.5 cm).
- BRANCUSI, Constantin,
Young Bird, 1928. Bronze, 16" (40.5 cm) high, on two-part pedestal of stone and wood (carved by the artist), overall 35 3/4" (90.7 cm) high.
- BRANCUSI, Constantin,
Bird in Space, 1941. Bronze, 6' (182.9 cm) high, on three-part stone pedestal, overall 59 1/8" (150.2 cm) high.
- DELAUNAY, Robert,
The Windows, 1912. Oil on canvas, 51" x 6'5" (129.5 x 195.8 cm).
- GORKY, Arshile,
Diary of a Seducer, 1945. Oil on canvas, 50 x 62" (128.2 x 158.97 cm).
- MONDRIAN, Piet,
Trafalgar Square, 1939-43. Oil on canvas, 57 1/4 x 47 1/4" (145.2 x 120.0 cm).
- MONET, Claude,
Corona, c. 1920. Oil on canvas, 71" x 6'6 3/4" (182.05 x 201.92 cm).
- PICASSO, Pablo,
Two Acrobats with a Dog, 1905. Gouache on cardboard, 41 1/2 x 29 1/2" (105.5 x 75.0 cm).
- PICASSO, Pablo,
Still Life with Red Bull's Head, 1938. Oil and enamel on canvas, 38 1/8 x 51" (96.7 x 129.6 cm).
- PICASSO, Pablo,
Mirror and Cherries, 1947. Oil on canvas, 24 x 19 5/8" (61.5 x 50.4 cm).
- SEURAT, Georges-Pierre,
The Channel at Gravelines, Evening, 1890. Oil on canvas, 25 3/4 x 32 1/4" (65.4 x 81.9 cm).