

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1940

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES TWO IMPORTANT PAINTINGS

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that it has acquired for its permanent collection two important paintings: The Sleeping Gypsy by Henri Rousseau and The Window on the Park by André Derain. These paintings will be shown in the Exhibition of MODERN MASTERS which will run concurrently at the Museum with the Exhibition of ITALIAN MASTERS, lent by the Royal Italian Government. Both exhibitions will open to the public Friday, January 26, and will continue through Sunday, March 24.

The Sleeping Gypsy is the gift of Mrs. Simon Guggenheim, who has previously shown her interest in modern art and in the Museum by other important gifts. In December 1937 she gave the Museum The Mirror by Picasso and on the occasion of the opening of the Museum's new building last May, she presented Despiau's Assia, the life-size bronze which stands in a position of honor in the sculpture garden, facing the Museum.

André Derain's The Window on the Park, formerly in the collection of the late Mrs. Cornelius J. Sullivan, is one of the artist's best known works. It was purchased by the Museum as a memorial to Mrs. Sullivan, one of the three women whose interest in modern art drew together the group that founded the Museum. The other two were Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the late Miss Lillie P. Bliss. In October 1935 the Museum elected Mrs. Sullivan an Honorary Trustee for life.

In announcing the new acquisitions, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum of Modern Art, said: "Our permanent collection has been magnificently enriched by the acquisition of Rousseau's Sleeping Gypsy for this painting is one of the great masterpieces of modern times. Rousseau painted larger canvases but this is unique in the concentrated power of its composition and the dream-like fascination of its subject.

"From his naive, almost child-like imagination Rousseau

created a vision of hallucinating mystery. Beneath a full moon a lion stands guard over a sleeping figure clothed in a Joseph's coat with a lute and jug of water by her side. Behind them the desert stretches away to pale hills in the distance. The forms are beautifully and simply painted as in a masterly primitive. The greatness of the picture is attested by the interest it arouses among all kinds of people--the lovers of old masters, the 'abstract' painters and the Surrealists, as well as the general public.

"Rousseau painted the Sleeping Gypsy in 1897 and sent it to the Paris Salon des Indépendents of that year with the title La Bohémienne endormie. It was for some years in the possession of the great New York collector of modern art, John Quinn. After his death it passed into the hands of a Swiss collector, from whom the Museum purchased it. The Museum is greatly indebted to Mrs. Guggenheim for making possible this very important acquisition.

"Derain's Window on the Park is also one of the classic works of modern art. Painted in 1912, it is a distinguished and characteristic painting of the period of calm austerity which followed upon the wild color and reckless freedom of the previous decade in French painting. The Window on the Park was the most important 20th century painting in Mrs. Sullivan's collection. It is therefore not only a memorial to one of the Museum's founders but also to the taste of an enthusiastic collector of modern art."

The Exhibition of MODERN MASTERS will include the following paintings and sculptures:

Paintings

BRAQUE, Georges
MAN WITH A GUITAR, oil, 1911
Lent by Marcel Fleischmann, Zurich

CEZANNE, Paul
THE CARD PLAYERS, oil, 1892
Lent by Stephen C. Clark, New York

LA MONTAGNE SAINTE-VICTOIRE, oil, 1885-1887
Lent by the Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington

DEGAS, Hilaire-Germain-Edgar
AT THE MILLINER'S, pastel, about 1882
Lent by Dr. and Mrs. David M. Levy, New York

DERAIN, André
THE WINDOW ON THE PARK, oil, 1912
Permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
purchased in memory of Mrs. Cornelius J. Sullivan

Paintings (cont'd)

EAKINS, Thomas

MRS. LETITIA WILSON JORDAN BACON, oil, 1888
Lent by the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.

GAUGUIN, Paul

THE SPIRIT OF THE DEAD WATCHING, oil, Tahiti, 1892
Lent by A. Conger Goodyear, New York

VAN GOGH, Vincent

L'ARLESIENNE (Mme. Ginoux), oil, Arles, 1888
Lent by the Lewisohn Collection, New York

NIGHT CAFE, oil, Arles, 1888
Lent by Stephen C. Clark, New York

GRIS, Juan

THE CHESSBOARD, oil on wood, 1917
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

HOMER, Winslow

THE FOX HUNT, oil, 1827
Lent by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
Philadelphia

LA FRESNAYE, Roger de

THE CONQUEST OF THE AIR, oil, 1913
Lent by René Gaffé, Brussels

MATISSE, Henri

WHITE PLUMES, oil, 1919
Lent by Stephen C. Clark, New York

MIRO, Joan

COMPOSITION, oil, 1933
Lent by Miss Ann Resor, New York

PICASSO, Pablo

THE STUDIO, oil, 1925
Lent anonymously

RENOIR, Auguste

LE MOULIN DE LA GALETTE, oil, 1876
Lent by John Hay Whitney, New York

LITTLE MARGOT BERARD, oil, 1879
Lent by Stephen C. Clark, New York

ROUAULT, Georges

CLOWN'S HEAD, oil, 1917
Lent by Edward G. Robinson, Beverly Hills

ROUSSEAU, Henri

THE SLEEPING GYPSY, oil, 1897
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
gift of Mrs. Simon Guggenheim

RYDER, Albert Pinkham

MACBETH AND THE WITCHES, oil
Lent by the Ferargil Galleries, New York

SEURAT, Georges-Pierre

THE SIDE SHOW, oil, 1889
Lent by Stephen C. Clark, New York

VUILLARD, Jean Edouard

LE SALON VESSEL, RUE DE RIVOLI, oil, 1901
Lent by Wildenstein & Company, Inc., New York

Paintings (cont'd)

WHISTLER, James Abbott McNeill
THE WHITE GIRL, oil, 1862
Lent by Miss Gertrude B. Whittemore, Naugatuck,
Connecticut

Sculptures

BRANCUSI, Constantin
BIRD IN SPACE, bronze, 1919
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art

DESPIAU, Charles
ASSIA, bronze, 1938
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
gift of Mrs. Simon Guggenheim

EPSTEIN, Jacob
MADONNA AND CHILD, bronze, 1927
Lent by Miss Sally Ryan, courtesy of the Tate
Gallery, London

LEHMBRUCK, Wilhelm
KNEELING WOMAN, cast stone, 1911
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

MAILLOL, Aristide
DESIRE, plaster, about 1904
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
gift of the Sculptor

TORSO, bronze, 1910
Permanent Collection of the Museum of Modern Art,
gift of A. Conger Goodyear