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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET
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CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

September 11, 1945

TO City Editor
Art Editor
Education Editor
Dance Editor
Theatre Editor

Dear Sir:

You are invited to come or send a representative to

Press Preview of
COSTUME CARNIVAL
a small exhibition to be shown in
the Young People's Gallery

Tuesday, September 18
2 to 6 P.M.

at the Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street

The exhibition will open to the public Wednesday, September 19, and will remain on view through November 25. The exhibition, which has been prepared by the Department of Dance and Theatre Design, will be sent on tour to schools and small galleries throughout the country after its initial showing at the Museum.

Sincerely yours,


Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COSTUME CARNIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OPENSAT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

By means of paper sculpture, wooden cutouts, drawings and a gaily colored merry-go-round, the Costume Carnival which opens at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday, September 19, indicates the historical sources to which the contemporary costume designer refers for his free and imaginative interpretations. The exhibition, designed by the Museum's Department of Dance and Theatre Design for children of all ages, will be shown in the Young People's Gallery on the second floor. When it closes November 25, it will be circulated to schools and small galleries throughout the country.

Models and drawings emphasize the fact that fashion has never been static and that variations and elaborations of basic patterns throughout the centuries have provided the costume designer with an unlimited field of ideas and inspiration. In the first section of the exhibition, paper sculptures by Erica Gorecka-Egan illustrate three basic costumes--the draped gown, the poncho and the kimono. Other paper sculptures represent highly stylized contemporary costumes. The ten wooden cutouts on the merry-go-round span the fashions of many centuries, the figures exaggerating and emphasizing the peculiar characteristics and oddities of the period. A dance figure by Alexander Calder straddles the top of the merry-go-round.

The work of the modern artists, in the second part of the exhibition, points out the changing attitude to the problem of costume design. Instead of limiting himself to a dependence upon authentic historical details and transposing the actual costume to the stage, the modern artist relies primarily on his imagination and has thus introduced a freer and more creative approach to the field of costume design.

No original costume designs are shown. Drawings and cutout figures by Jean Volkmer and Charlotte Trowbridge of the Museum staff, are adapted for children from original documents. Among the artists whose costume designs have served as inspiration are Picasso, Léger, Schlemmer, Dali and Mérida.

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COSTUME CARNIVAL

Check List

SHELF ONE

3 paper sculptures in boxes and 3 drawings illustrating the following costumes:

- (1) Draped Gown (Toga - Chiton)
- (2) Tunic - Poncho
- (3) Cloak - Kimono

SHELF TWO

3 wooden cutouts

- (1) Costume "Harlequin" (Commedia dell'Arte)
- (2) Mexican Indian Costume
- (3) Mexican Costume, after Merida

PANELS A and B

- (A) Different forms of Skirts
- (B) Different forms of Trousers

SHELF THREE

3 paper sculptures

- (1) Alexandra EXTER - Costume for Oscar Wilde's "Salome", 1917
- (2) Alexander VESNIN - Costume for Racine's "Phedre", 1921
- (3) Pablo PICASSO - Costume 'Manager' for Satie's Ballet "Parade", 1917

SHELF FOUR

3 cutouts and 3 drawings

- (1) Fernand LÉGER - Costume for Milhaud's Ballet "The Creation of the World", 1923
- (2) Joan JUNYER - Costume for projected Ballet, 1945
- (3) Georges VALMIER - Costume for Pillement's "Cyprien", 1923
- (4) Oskar SCHLEMMER - Costume for the "Triadic Ballet", 1923
- (5) Salvador DALI - Costume for the "Paranoic Ballet", about 1940
- (6) Richard LINDNER - Ballet Costume "The Magic Cock", 1945

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ten cutouts of silhouettes of Fashion through the Ages.
Samples of Materials, demonstrating different materials, weaves, colors.

All costume drawings or sculptures or cutouts are free copies or have been redesigned. None of them is original.