THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

91051-50

PRESS PREVIEW TUES. 2-5 P.M.
FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 19,1951

MEMORIAL EXHIBITION OF BECKMANN PRINTS AT MUSEUM

A memorial exhibition of original prints by the late German artist Max Beckmann will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from September 19 through October 28 on the third floor. The exhibition will be arranged by William S. Lieberman, Associate Curator in charge of prints.

Approximately 40 works have been selected from the Museum's Collection of more than 100 woodcuts, lithographs, etchings and drypoints by Max Beckmann. Many are recent acquisitions shown for the first time.

The subjects are varied and dramatic: Berlin cafe and nightlife in the 1920's; sport and circus scenes; episodes from the Old and New Testaments; Germany at war and peace; personal allegories of disturbing image and persuasion. One section will be devoted to self portraits from the artist as a young man of 25 to Beckmann at the height of his maturity 40 years later.

Little Known Prints Included

Although primarily a painter, Max Beckmann's graphic oeuvre numbers over 300 prints which in quality and quantity establish him as one of the important printmakers of the 20th century. He was born in Leipzig in 1884, studied at the Weimar Academy and in 1906 joined the Berlin Secession movement which was dominated by the German impressionist trio Max Lieberman, Corinth and Slevogt. Beckmann's personal adaptation of this brand of impressionism is illustrated by his earliest lithographs (1909-11), scenes from the Bible and from the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice.

His reaction against Impressionism, first apparent in his graphic art, begins around 1912. The torment and harshness of the first World War, in which he served as field corpsman, accelerated this change. He allied himself with the dramatic tradition of the Northern Gothic, typified by the emotionalism and distortion of the German expressionists. He became extremely active as a printmaker and between 1915 and 1923 produced almost 200 plates.

Toward the end of the 1920's his style relaxed somewhat and he lessened his work in the graphic arts. In 1937, after being attacked by the Nazis, he sought refuge in the Netherlands. The impact of world upheaval again contributed to his art and, in an age which often ignores the importance of symbol, he devoted his major efforts to a series of allegories.

In 1946 he returned to lithography and composed his last important series of prints, a portfolio entitled Day and Dream. In 1947 he came to the United States to teach at Washington University. He died at the age of 66 in New York, in December 1950.

PRINTS BY MAX BECKMANN
Sept. 19 - Oct. 28, 1951

1. The Soldiers Casting Lots under the Cross.	(1911.) Lithograph, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
2. The Sermon on the Mount.	(1911.) Lithograph, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
3. Self Portrait.	1911. Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
4. The Widow.	(1914.) Drypoint.	Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
√5. Self Portrait.	(1914.) Drypoint.	Gift of Paul J. Sachs
6. Operation (large plate).	(1914.) Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
7. Declaration of War.	1914. Drypoint, first state, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
8. Night.	(1914: dated in 1916) Drypoint, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
√9. Self Portrait with Burin.	(1916-17.) Drypoint and etching.	Gift of Edgar Kaufmann, Jr
10. Street Scene.	1917. Drypoint.	Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld
11. Landscape with Balloon.	(1918.) Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
12. Madhouse.	(1918.) Drypoint.	Purchase Fund.
13. Children Playing.	(1918.) Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
√14. The Way Home.	(1919.) Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
√15. The Night.	(1919.) Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
√16. Old Lady in Bonnet.	(1920.) Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
√17. Self Portrait in Bowler Hat.	1921. Drypoint, first state, trial proof.	Given anonymously
18. Portrait of a Dancer.	1921. Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
19. Reinhard Piper.	1921. Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
√20. Backstage.	1921. Drypoint, trial proof.	Gift of J.B. Neumann

21. The Tall Man.	(1921.)	Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
22. Tightrope Walker.	(1921.)	Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
23. Snake Charmer.	(1921.)	Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
24. Self Portrait with Cigar (in Hotel).	1922.	Lithograph, trial proof.	Extended loan from Dr. Arthur Lefford
25. Berlin Theatre Foyer.	(1922.)	Lithograph.	Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Purchase Fund
26. Honky Tonk.	(1922.)	Lithograph.	Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Purchase Fund
27. Chimney Sweep.	(1922.)	Lithograph.	Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Purchase Fund
28. Frederick Delius.	(1922.)	Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
29. Self Portrait.	(1922.)	Woodcut.	Given anonymously
30. Beach.	(1922.)	Drypoint.	Purchase Fund
31. Siesta.	(c.1923.)	Drypoint, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
32. Kasbek.	1923.	Drypoint.	Gift of Victor Riesenfeld
33. Café Concert in the Hotel.	(1927.)	Woodcut, trial proof.	Purchase Fund
34. Self Portrait.	(1946.)	Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
35. Weathervane.	(1946.)	Lithograph.	Purchase Fund
36. King and Demagogue.	(1946.)	Lithograph.	Purchase Fund