

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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PRESS PREVIEW: TUESDAY  
April 26, 1955; 2-5p.m.

Two exhibitions of original works of art, ETCHINGS BY MATISSE and PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from April 27 through May 30. Consisting mostly of recent acquisitions to the Museum's collection which have not been shown before at the Museum, both exhibitions were selected and installed in the Auditorium Gallery by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints. After the New York showing, the Matisse etchings will tour several cities. The etchings are also being published this month in a book of facsimile reproductions with an introduction by Mr. Lieberman.

ETCHINGS BY MATISSE consists of two constellations of prints. Twice, in 1914 and again in 1929, Matisse took up etching with enthusiasm, as if he deliberately sought temporary refreshment from easel painting in the chemistry of another medium. The etchings of 1914 consist mostly of quick and informal portraits of his family and friends -- his wife and children, the wives of the painters Derain, Galanis and Juan Gris, the American painter Walter Pach, the model Loulou. Often Matisse etched several portraits of the same sitter.

The second series of etchings (1929) are studies of professional models -- nudes, odalisques, girls gazing at goldfish. Although some of the variations repeat or anticipate motifs in his painting, most often they remain distinct. The most successful of the etchings of 1929 offer daring reductions of a pose or movement into an abbreviated essential of lines.

A second exhibition, fifty-five PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN, falls into several groups. The first section consists of a dozen large Japanese woodcuts recently acquired by the Museum. These woodcuts blend traditional and modern styles, sometimes with mystery, often with humor. Of the six artists represented, Kiyoshi Saito is the best known in the United States. One of the woodcuts, The Arrival of the South Savages by Kawakami, depicts the coming to Japan of the Portugese in the 16th century.

A gallery of the exhibition is devoted to the expressionist movement in Germany, particularly those artists who banded together around 1905 to form the group known as the Brücke (Bridge). From the outset the German expressionists regarded print-making as important as painting. The woodcuts of Kirchner, Heckel, Nolde, Rohlf and Schmidt-Rottluff naturally combine strength and decoration. To these are added

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several lithographs by Barlach, Dix, Hofer, Kokoschka and Klee. The selection of expressionist prints begins in 1904 and ends in 1925. A large color woodcut of 1953, four feet high, by Helmut Grieshaber, has been added as an example of a younger artist continuing the expressionist tradition in Germany today. Grieshaber lives and works on the isolated mountain Achalm in the German province of Wurtemberg.

New acquisitions of prints by two 19th century precursors of surrealism, James Ensor and Odilon Redon, are followed by a small selection of contemporary European lithographs in color. Several artists from several countries are included. As painters, all have established their reputations since the war. Kenneth Armitage and Robert Colquhoun are British, Elenbaas is Dutch, Fabbri and Musici work in Italy, Dubuffet and the Chinese Zao Wou-ki live in Paris. Picasso, who more than any other single artist has stimulated the renaissance of lithography in Europe today, is also represented. His three large lithographs, done in a single day, offer three different portraits of Honoré Balzac, whose work Picasso first illustrated in 1927.

A polyptich in six panels, The Herring Catch by the Norwegian Rolf Nesch, has been recently given to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr. Daring in its scale and boldness, the series of color engravings reveal Nesch as one of the contemporary innovators in intaglio in Europe.

PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN consist only of recent additions to the Museum Collections. The prints have been acquired through purchase funds and gifts. Donors include Mr. Larry L. Aldrich; Mr. Samuel A. Berger; Mr. Peter H. Deitsch; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr.; Mrs. E. Powis Jones; Mr. Victor S. Riesenfeld; Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd; Kiyoshi Saito (represented in the exhibition); Mrs. Donald B. Straus; Mr. Edward M.M. Warburg.

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Note: A checklist of prints in both exhibitions will be available at the press preview. Photographs are also available on request from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director.