

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 24

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesay, May 27, 1964

PRESS PREVIEW:

Monday, May 25, 1964

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NEW GALLERIES FOR DRAWINGS AND PRINTS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

To inaugurate the new Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints when The Museum of Modern Art re-opens on May 27, William S. Lieberman, Curator of Drawings and Prints, has selected more than 150 works from the great resources of the department's once-inaccessible collection. This is one of nine summer exhibitions marking the opening of the Museum's expanded building and Sculpture Garden.

Located in the new east wing of the Museum, the Sachs Galleries provide, for the first time in the Museum's history, a permanent view of a representative cross-section of graphic media from the collection. In addition, there will be changing exhibitions of new acquisitions and works from the collection.

A stairway at the entrance to the Galleries gives direct access to The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room, thereby making the rest of the print collection -- some 7,000 works by 800 artists from 55 countries -- available to the interested public, students, scholars, artists and collectors. The international scope of this collection is as important as its surveys of the graphic work of individual artists; among the Museum's most definitive collections of prints are those by such artists as Beckmann, Chagall, Klee, Picasso and Rohlfs.

When the second phase of the Museum's building program is completed later in the '60s, a special study center will be provided for the Museum's drawing collection.

The opening exhibition in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries features Drawings from the Museum's Collection and Prints by Seventeen Artists. The survey of 80 of the Museum's best drawings was chosen to suggest the scope of the collection of some 700 works, beginning with the drawings of Seurat and his contemporaries of the late 19th century and continuing through the draftsmen of today. More than 65 artists

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from 15 countries are represented including current work by such contemporary artists as Leonard Baskin and Georges Mathieu, as well as such masters as van Gogh and Matisse. The drawing collection includes a number of studies for paintings and sculpture, and forms an invaluable supplement to the Museum's Painting and Sculpture Collection.

Several works on paper related to theater and dance productions form a special group within the drawings section. Artists represented in this segment of the show will include Marc Chagall, Nathalie Gontcharova, George Grosz, Fernand Léger, Oskar Schlemmer and Reuben Ter-Arutunian. In 1960, when the Museum's drawings were added to the new and separate curatorial department of Drawings and Prints, the Dance and Theater Design Collection were also added. Lack of exhibition space has prevented these works from being shown for a number of years.

Each of the seventeen artists included in the print section of the inaugural exhibition are represented by approximately two to four prints. Masterpieces by some of the world's leading painters and sculptors, as well as graphic works by younger artists from Europe, Latin America and the United States are included. A group of books illustrated by André Derain from the Louis E. Stern Collection of Illustrated Books is shown within the print section.

The opening print exhibition in the Sachs Galleries is augmented by a major temporary exhibition in the Museum's first floor galleries, American Painters as New Lithographers. This show features recent work by eleven artists: Lee Bontecou, Jim Dine, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Fritz Glarner, Grace Hartigan, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Robert Rauschenberg and Larry Rivers.

Drawings and prints, the Museum's first acquisitions in 1929, were the gifts of Professor Paul J. Sachs, who during forty years at Harvard University as a teacher and as a collector, has inspired three generations of students. A founder of the Museum and one of its Trustees for thirty years, Professor Sachs became an Honorary Trustee in 1959, and serves, today, as Chairman of the Committee on Drawings and Prints, which is named in his honor. Members of the Committee include Walter Bareiss,

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E. Powis Jones, Mrs. Gertrud A. Mellon, John S. Newberry, Bernard J. Reis, Lessing J. Rosenwald, Mrs. Maurice Wertheim and James Thrall Soby. The formation of the Paul J. Sachs Committee and the creation of the Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints derives from the increasing emphasis in the Museum's program on this field, which has experienced such a decisive revival of interest in the 20th century.

The need at The Museum of Modern Art for a department which would concentrate on the prints of the present and recent past from throughout the world was evident in the '30s when the Museum built its present main building at 11 West 53rd Street. Space was, therefore, provided for a print room in the plans for the building. Because of the war, the print room was not opened for another nine years, the space intended for it being used for the study of films in connection with various defense and war offices. Meanwhile, though the prints themselves were kept in storage, the collection continued to grow. When the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room opened in 1949 there were more than 3,000 prints in the collection.

Mrs. Rockefeller, who died in 1948 just as final plans for opening the print room were being prepared, had been one of the original founders of the Museum and, more than anyone else, she had been responsible for the Museum's collection and activities in the field of fine prints. In 1940, her gift of 1,600 prints formed the nucleus of the Museum's collection of engravings, etchings, lithographs, woodcuts, serigraphs and prints in experimental media.

At the time of the opening of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room, William S. Lieberman, who had been with the Museum since 1943, was named Associate Curator for Prints; he was made Curator in 1953 and Curator of Drawings and Prints in 1960. Staff members for the department are: Elaine L. Johnson, Associate Curator; Joan Vass, Secretary to the Curator; Gloria Hodson, Registration Assistant; Eila Kokkinen, Cataloger for Drawings; and Riva Castleman, Cataloger for Prints.

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BOOKS AND BULLETINS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAWINGS AND PRINTS

Lieberman, William S. - Max Ernst
Etchings by Matisse
The Sculptor's Studio: Etchings by Picasso
Edvard Munch - A Selection of his Prints from American
Collections
Jacques Villon, a bulletin
Picasso, his graphic art, a bulletin
Redon, drawings and lithographs, a bulletin

Soby, James Thrall - Georges Rouault: Paintings and Prints

Taylor, Joshua C. - The Graphic Work of Umberto Boccioni

Recent Drawings, U.S.A., a catalog

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room (1948), a bulletin

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room: 1949-1958, a bulletin

Drawings: Recent Acquisitions, An Announcement of the Paul J. Sachs Galleries (1963),
a bulletin

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director,
Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street,
New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.