

The Museum of Modern Art

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SOME AMERICAN DRAWINGS: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

SOME AMERICAN DRAWINGS: RECENT ACQUISITIONS, an exhibition of 16 additions to The Museum of Modern Art's collection of drawings, will be on view at the Museum from July 19 through September 12. Selected and installed by William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings, the exhibition is limited to works by American artists. With two exceptions, these drawings were done during the 1950s and the 1970s.

Although limited to 16 drawings, the content of the selection is varied and its installation suggests several provocative comparisons. Works by Morris Kantor, Lee Krasner, Willem de Kooning, Richard Lindner, Philip Pearlstein and William Copley offer contrasting interpretations of the human figure. Mr. Lieberman notes: "In size, the small de Kooning Woman, one of three drawings in color in the exhibition, has been compared to a manuscript illumination. The enraged figure, however, assumes heroic proportions and represents de Kooning at his expressionist best. Copley's overripe floozy, a gift of the San Juan Racing Association, is more characterized. She giddily greets the spectator, yet remains incapable of rising from her divan. In contrast, Pearlstein's pair of nudes--here figures have become still life--pose silently and are observed with cool detachment."

Also included in the exhibition are drawings by three sculptors, David Smith, Barbara Riboud and Nancy Graves. A drawing by David Ligare explores the ocean's shore. The freedom of John Dowell's spontaneously brushed abstraction contrasts with the more precise, persuasively repetitive images of Howardena Pindell and Edda Renouf, who share a fascination with microcosmic, fragile forms. Richard Lindner and Kurt Seligmann, emigrés from World War II Europe, are both represented by drawings done in 1954. Lindner's precocious Boy, a gift in honor of the late René d'Harnoncourt, former Director of The Museum of Modern Art, sits like a prince, alone, with toys

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of an enchanted childhood. Seligmann's black ritual describes forces of evil, a victim obsessed, and a cleric as exorcist.

Willem de Kooning, Richard Lindner and David Smith are already represented in the collection by other drawings. The remaining eleven artists have not previously been included in the collection. Additional new acquisitions by European as well as American artists will be included in BETWEEN WORLD WARS, an exhibition of drawing in Europe and America between 1919 and 1938. BETWEEN WORLD WARS, also directed by Mr. Lieberman, opens at the Museum on August 20. SOME AMERICAN DRAWINGS: RECENT ACQUISITIONS follows the large contemporary survey DRAWING NOW, which opened at the Museum last winter and currently is the featured exhibition at the Edinburgh Festival.

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