

The Museum of Modern Art

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For immediate release

PHILIP JOHNSON: SELECTED GIFTS ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

PHILIP JOHNSON: SELECTED GIFTS celebrates the extraordinary contribution the renowned architect has made to the Painting and Sculpture Collection of The Museum of Modern Art. Opening April 11, this special installation features forty paintings and sculptures drawn from gifts Philip Johnson has made to the collection since 1952. Selected and installed by Johnson, they range from Abstract Expressionist paintings of the late forties to the minimal and conceptual work of the mid-seventies. Thirty one artists are represented.

Commenting on Johnson's activities as a collector, William Rubin, director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, states, "For the last several decades, Philip Johnson has been one of the country's most courageous and perspicacious collectors of vanguard painting and sculpture. No artist I know has collected on so vast a scale--nor, perhaps, learned so much from it....His personal foresight accounts for many works now considered key objects in the Museum collection."

PHILIP JOHNSON: SELECTED GIFTS begins with Abstract Expressionist paintings by Adolph Gottlieb, Philip Guston, Franz Kline, Barnett Newman, Mark Rothko, and Bradley Walker Tomlin. Among major works from the Pop Art movement are Roy Lichtenstein's Girl with Ball, 1961; Claes Oldenburg's Floor Cake, 1962; George Segal's The Bus Driver, 1962; and Andy Warhol's Gold Marilyn Monroe, 1962.

The installation features sculptures by Richard Serra, Ellsworth

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Kelly, Donald Judd, Robert Morris, Mark di Suvero, and Richard Stankiewicz. Also included are such key works in the Museum collection as Jasper Johns's Flag, 1954-55; Agnes Martin's Red Bird, 1964; Robert Rauschenberg's First Landing Jump, 1961; and Frank Stella's Astoria, 1958.

The founder of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, Philip Johnson began his professional association with the Museum in the early thirties. As director of that department from 1932 to 1936 and again from 1946 to 1954, he organized a series of exhibitions and publications that defined the standards for and recorded the history of modern architecture and design. These included the seminal MODERN ARCHITECTURE: INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION in 1932 and MACHINE ART in 1934.

Throughout his long association with the Museum, Johnson has remained vitally involved with both the building and the collection. He served as chief architect of several important additions to the Museum complex. In 1953 he designed the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, and in 1964 he was responsible for the Museum's Garden Wing and East Wing additions. He was elected to the Museum's Board of Trustees in 1958.

Since 1932 Johnson has given more than 350 works of art to the Museum, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, architectural drawings, and design objects.

PHILIP JOHNSON: SELECTED GIFTS will be on view in the painting and sculpture galleries on the third floor of the Museum through the summer of 1985.

For further information, please contact the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9750.
