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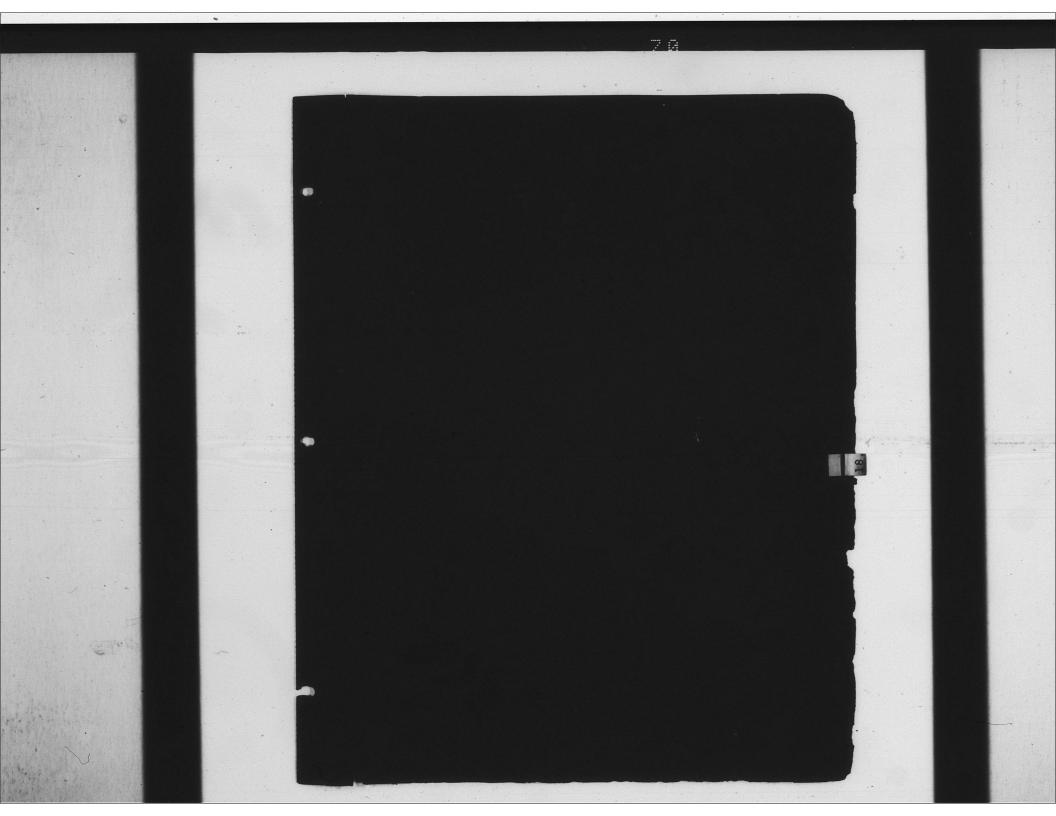
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, New York

# Department of Circulating Exhibitions Records

Series III. Albums

Fantastic Art, Past and Present

III.1.19





Present PAST AST O ARE PAST AND PRESENT

## 5 Fantastic Art, Past and Present

S l'antastic Art, l'ast and l'recent

Neschibition is a small selection of material from the comprehensive
collection of Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism which the Museum
circulated throughout the country last year. It surveys the fantastic
and the marvellous in European and American art of the past five centuries. Most of the historical section is represented by engravings and
photostatic copies of work by such aritius as Ditter, Breughel, Booch,
Leonardo, Blake, Hogarth and Goya. The main body of the exhibition,
composed of paintings, watercolors, and drawings, represents the Dada-

Surrealist movement of the past twenty years together with certain of its pioneers and contemporary artists whose work is related. Approximately 50 to 75 items will be included. The exhibition will probably require from 150 to 200 running feet of wall space.

Rental fee, three weeks: \$75.00

FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

### ITINERARY

1938 Jan. 26 to Feb. 16 Grand Rapids Art Gallery, Grand Rapids, Mich. Feb. 23 to Mar. 16 Middlebury College, Middlehury, Vt. Mar. 23 to Apr. 13 Duke University, Durham, N.C. Apr. 20 to May 11 Junior League of Binghamton, New York

#### THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

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FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

FORM LETTER I

Dear Mr....

The exhibition of Fantastic Art, Past and Present, which you have engaged for the period (date to date) will be shipped to (city) from (city) by Railway Express Collect on or about (date). I am enclosing material which I believe you will want to have at this time.

I enclose two releases which I think you will find useful in planning your publicity. The first should be sent sometime before the opening of the exhibition, the second as a follow-up. I have indicated on the enclosed check list of the exhibition the items which have been photographed for publicity purposes. We can obtain prints for you at 55¢ each. Please let me know if you wish to order any. May I have your assurance that all announcements, posters, publicity releases, etc. will carry the information that the exhibition was organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York?

The check list, which I also enclose, is for your use in planning installation. The exhibition should be installed according to the groups indicated on this list. To facilitate hanging we have placed colored seals on the backs of the mounts and pictures according to these groupings. Mounted material is indicated on the check list with brackets.

I believe you will want to order a few copies of our illustrated catalog, Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism, which contains the essays of Georges Hugnet on Dada and Surrealism and includes 222 plates. The sale price of the catalog is \$5.00. We can allow you a discount of 40% on consignment orders of ten or more copies.

Sometime before the opening of the exhibition you will receive full unpacking instructions for the show.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary of Circulating Exhibitions

encls. check list (marked for photos)
two different releases

They made pictures of flotsam, odds and ends, paper, string, snapshots, clockworks, popular illustrations, lace and bus tickets. They made pictures with their eyes shut or their backs turned. After

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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

	FOR	RELEASE	

On \_\_\_\_\_\_ an exhibition of
Fantastic Art, Past and Present will open at \_\_\_\_\_\_. This exhibition
of over one hundred and fifty items was selected from the exhibition of Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism which was first shown at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and subsequently sent on tour throughout the country.

The earliest date of any object shown is about 1450; the latest 1936. More than 70 American and European artists are represented, ranging from such extremes as Hieronymus Bosch and Leonardo da Vinci of the fifteenth century to Walt Disney and Rube Goldberg of the twentieth century, and including such famous names, old and modern, as Duerer, Arcimboldo, Hogarth, William Blake, Lewis Carroll, Delacroix, Edward Lear, Redon, Chagall, de Chirico, Duchamp, Picasso, Arp, Dali, Ernst, Magritte, Miro, Klee, Man Ray and Tanguy.

The fantastic and marvellous in European and American art of the past five centuries is represented in this exhibition by about 75 items. Most of the paintings in the exhibition represent the Dada and Surrealist movements of the past twenty years together with certain pioneers. A number of artists, both American and European, who have worked along related but independent lines, are brought together in a separate division. There are also special sections on fantastic architecture and on comparative material, including the art of children and the insane.

In giving a brief outline of Dada and Surrealism, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum of Modern Art, states: "In Zurich in 1916, well before the end of the war, Dada was born, the child of disillusion and spiritual exhaustion. The Dadaists scoffed at all conventional values and all pretensions. They rejected everything (including modern art) and accepted anything. They made pictures of flotsam, odds and ends, paper, string, snapshots, clockworks, popular illustrations, lace and bus tickets. They made pictures with their eyes shut or their backs turned. After

the Armistice Dadaism grew in Paris and Germany. Dada was a bitter gesture made by artists for whom the war, Versailles and inflation had made civilization and art, temporarily at least, a bad joke.

"Surrealism, which developed in Paris around 1924, was the direct descendent of the Dadaist interest in the bizarre, the spontaneous, and the anti-rational. But while the Surrealist program carried on the iconoclasm of Dada it added serious researches into subconscious images, dreams, visions, automatic and psychoanalytic drawings.

"Surrealism, so far as its serious adherents are concerned, is more than a literary or an art movement: it is a philosophy, a way of life, a cause which has involved some of the most brilliant printers and poets of our age. Since the formation of its nucleus in Paris fifteen years ago Surrealism has spread throughout the world with active groups in London, Brussels, Warsaw, Copenhagen, Prague, Barcelona, Belgrade, Stockholm, Teneriffe, Japan and New York."

It was in 1922 that André Breton, French poet, writer and oditor who had been a practicing psychiatrist during the war, gathered most of the ex-Dadaists into a new group which assumed the name "Surrealist" in 1924, when Breton published the First Manifesto of Surrealism. Br Breton defined Surrealism as follows:

SURREALISM: Pure psychic automatism, by which it is intended to express, verbally, in writing, or by other means, the real process of thought. Thought's dictation, in the absence of all control exercised by the reason and outside all mesthetic or moral procecupations.

Surrealism rests in the belief in the superior reality of cortain forms of association neglected leretofore; in the omnipotence of the drom and in the disinterested play of thought. It tends definitely to do away with all other psychic mechanisms and to substitute itself for them in the solution of the principal problems of life. L.

Breton also has declared: "I am resolved to render powerless that hatred of the marvellous which is so rampant among certain people, that ridicule to which they are so eager to expose it. Briefly: The marvellous is always beautiful, anything that is marvellous is beautiful; indeed, nothing but the marvellous is beautiful."

indeed, nothing but the marvelleus is beautiful."

if are concluded in his introduction to the exhibition:

"We can describe the contemporary movement toward an art of the

marvelous and irrational but we are still too close to it to evaluate

it. Apparently the movement is growing: under the name of Surrealism

it is now active in a dozen countries of Europe, in North and South

America, in Japan; it is influencing artists outside the movement as

well as designers of decorative and commercial art; it is serving as

a link between psychology on one hand and poetry on the other; it is frankly concerned with symbolic, "literary" or poetic subject matter and so finds itself in opposition to pure abstract art, realistic pictures of the social scene and ordinary studio painting of nudes or still life; its esthetic of the fantastic, onignatic and antirational is affecting art criticism and leading to discoveries and revaluations in art history."

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

Present-day Surrealism finds its most popular expression in the drawings of Rube Goldberg and in the animated fantasies of the world's best-loved Surrealist, Mickey Mouse.

André Breton, leader of Surrealism since 1922, when he published its First Manifesto, defines it as follows:

SURREALISM: Pure psychic automatism, by which it is intended to express, verbally, in writing, or by other means, the real process of thought. Thought's dictation, in the absence of all control exercised by the reason and outside all aesthetic or moral preoccupations.

Surrealism rests in the belief in the superior reality of cortain forms of association neglected heretofore; in the omnipotence of the dream and in the disinterested play of thought. It tends definitely to do away with all other psychic mechanisms and to substitute itself for them in the solution of the principal problems of life.

If Mickey Mouse in his peregrinations does not cavort "in the omnipotence of the dream" and "in the absence of all control excercised by the reason," then no one does or can. His creator, Walt Disney, is represented in the exhibition by the reproduction of a machine designated as a "wolf pacifier." Likewise, Lucifer Gorgonzola Butts, Ph.D., A.K., creature of Rube Goldberg's pen, gravely lays aside all reason in the invention of his insanely complicated machines to accomplish a simple result.

In Surrealism the dream world merges indistinguishably with the world of reality, the real seems unreal and the unreal real, the possible is combined with the impossible. Mickey Mouse, Lucifer G. Butts, and the creators and artists of the other marvelous machines all do this and in their way break down the hard dullness of facts into new and amazing patterns of fantagy with which to feed the imagination, undernourished by reality.

Circulating Exhibition

The Museum of Modern Art, N.Y.

FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

#### INSTALLATION

The exhibition is best installed according to the sections indicated on this list. To facilitate hanging we have placed colored seals on the backs of the pictures according to these groupings.

Historical material is marked with <u>red seals</u>, Dada material with <u>blue seals</u>. Artists Independent of the Surrealist Movement with <u>green seals</u>, and comparative material with <u>white scals</u>. The rest of the material (not marked with seals) includes the work of 20th Century Pioneers of Surrealisms and of The Surrealists.

Fantastic Art: 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries - red seals

Circ. Ex.	Artist	Title	
7	Baldung	Bewitched Groom	
39)	(Musi	The Carcass	
27) 30)	(Goujon	Woodcut from "Orus Apollo"	
37) 36) 21)	(Leonardo da Vinci (Jamnitzer (Fine) (Schön	Woodcut from "Devina Proportione" Etching from "Perspectiva Corporum" Woodcut from "Raison d'Architecture" Woodcut from "Unterweisung der Proportion"	
11)	(Bosch (Brueghel	Small fishes are bait for large fishes Avarice	
12)	(Bosch	Temptation of St. Anthony Capital Sins	
2) 3) 4) 5)	(Arcimboldo (" ("	Fire Water Winter Summer	
41)	(Richier	Figure from the tomb of René de Châlons	
103) 94) 99)	(Busch	"The Dressing Gown Dances with the Chair" "Ol How I dreamt of Things Impossible" Ghost of a flea	
114) 115) 116) 117)	(Gaillot (" ("	The Tailor The Musician The Sausage-seller The Carpenter	
109)	(Delacroix (Gaillot	Moving day Fight to the Finish	

The royal coach of the Netherlands First dream - crime and expiation (Grandville 130)-A promenade in the sky (19th century Perspective distortions 181) 183) Demonology and witchcraft | New Machine for cutting too long tongues.... 132) (Heath (Italian School 179) The eye like a strange baloon...... -- (Redon 163)--(Redon Lithograph from "In Dreams" 156) 157) Lithograph from "A Edgar Poe" 161) (Redon 162) The Devil with bagpipes
Puzzle picture
The wonder-grapes ....... (Schon 44) (Vogtherr 44a) 33) (Jamnitzer Tournament Grotesque design 34)-The encounter 84) 85) (French School Mischievous heart Deep heart Bitter heart Feminine heart 87) 50) 52) 55) (de la Barre (von Bömmel Design for Jewelers Horse rampant (van der Eeckhout Ornament Vessel 82) (van Vianen Etching from "Raccolta delle Cose" (Morghen 70) 71) 72) 73) 74) 75) Miller's costume
Box-maker's costume (Larmessin Laborer's costume Marshall's costume Butcher's costume Baker's costume 120) (Gill (French School Beyond the mountains Disguise for aristocrats The analysis of Beauty ----(Hogarth The Bathos ----(Hogarth Some of the Principal Inhabitants ...... ----(Hogarth On an Act of Parliament Whoever makes a design ..... -(Hogarth (Hogarth Hogarth's Tour Nature displayed.....

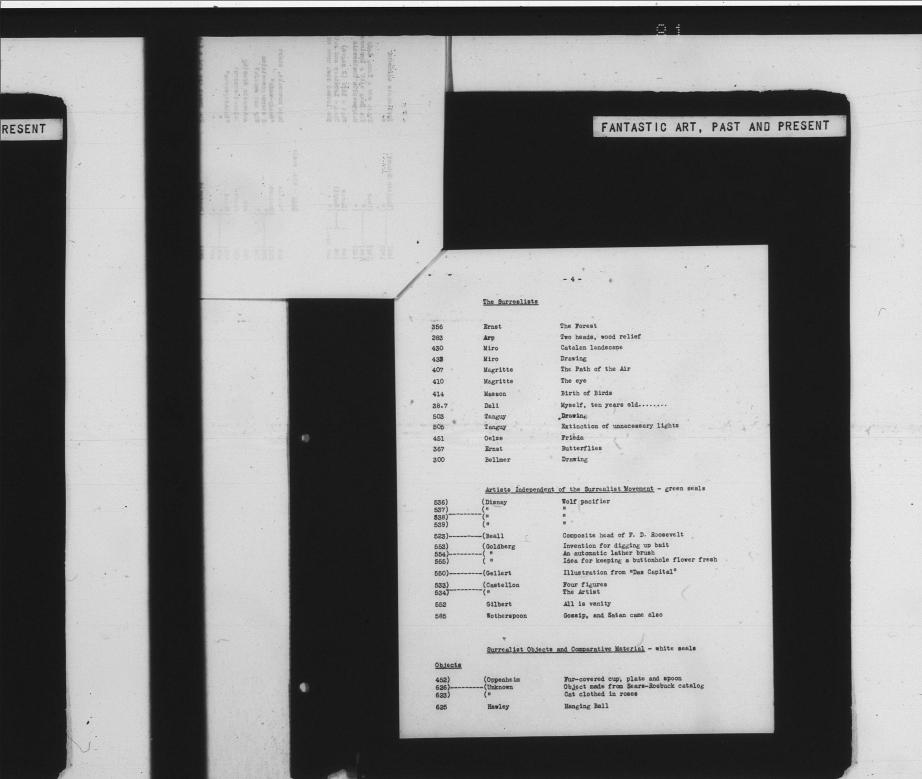
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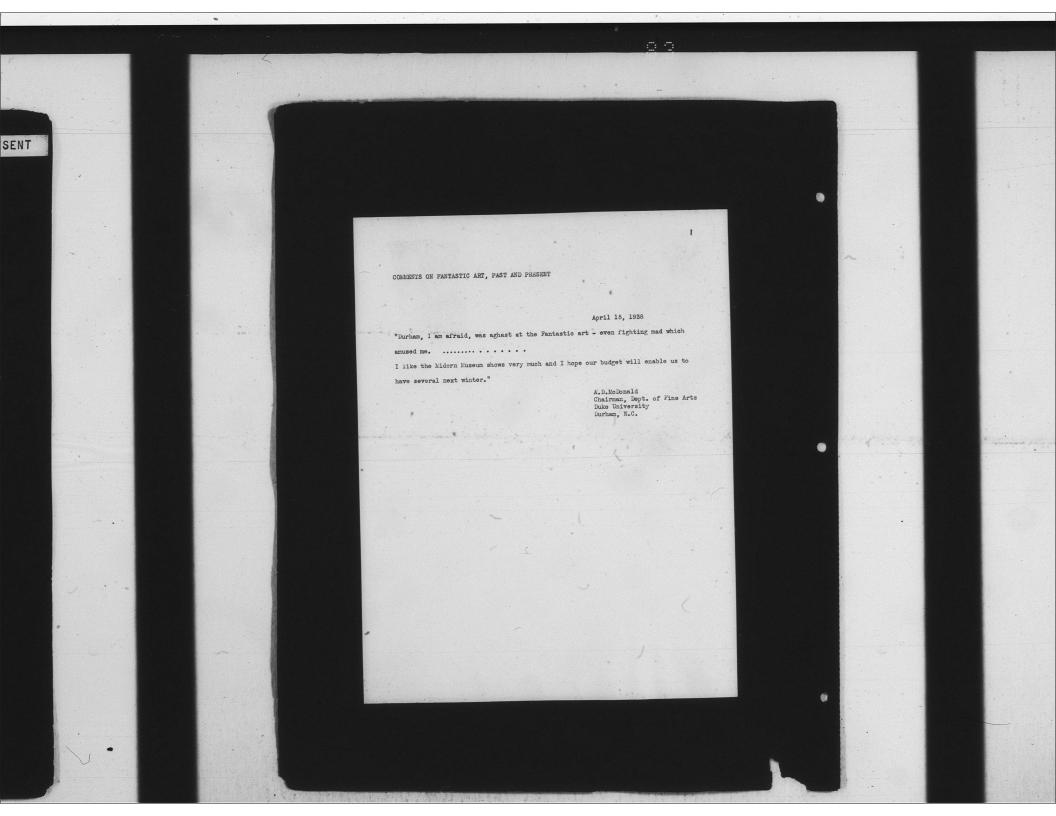
-(English School Implements animated 169) 170) There was a Young Lady whose Nose The Dong with a Luminous Nose Manypeeplia Upsidownia 143) (Lear What a Life (2 pages) (Lucas -(Caroll 146 104 Change Lobsters and retire..... She looked down upon an immense length .... not cat.) Dada - blue seals Dada movement, chart Picabia 464 "Ready-made" 221) (Duchemp 3 stoppeges-etalon 223)-Why not sneeze? Automatic drawing 265 Arp Colored woodcut 400 Janco (Sched "Schadographs" 485) 486)-487) The human eye and a fish ..... -(Baargeld 292) 294) Here everything is floating .......
Above the clouds the midnight passes..... 330) (Ernst -(Baargeld and Ernst Drawing on wallpaper 297)-Merz: Santa Claus 495 Schwitters Merz 379: Potsdamer 496 Schwitters Improvisation Kandinsky 89.35 Man Ray Rayograph 471 Rayograph 472 Man Ray The Hat makes the Man 341 Ernst 20th Century Pioneers of Surrealism Jewish Wedding Chagall 186 239 Klee Pierrot and Harlequin 93.34 Picasso

Chirico

Delights of the Poet

AND PRESENT





Exhibition: FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

FORM LETTER II

Dear Mr....:

The exhibition of Fantastic Art closes at (institution) on (date). It will be shipped to (city) on or about (date). I am enclosing full unpacking instructions. I shall appreciate it very much if you will see that the nen who unpack the material fully understand these instructions before the cases are unpacked. It is very important that all packing material be replaced in the box from which it is removed and the cover put back. The exhibition can be repacked correctly only if the same packing material is used.

The exhibition must be checked against the check list as it is being unpacked. Please let me know at once of any damage or any omissions from "the check list.

Eight of the larger pictures, because of special packing arrangements, are not equipped with screw eyes and picture wire for hanging. Will you be good enough to ask those who will install the exhibition to use the screw eye holes made by the previous exhibitor?

Flease let me know if there is any other information I can send you at this time. Sometime before the closing of the exhibition you will receive full packing and shipping instructions.

Best wishes for the success of your showing.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary of Circulating Exhibitions

encls. (unpacking instructions)

### Exhibition: FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

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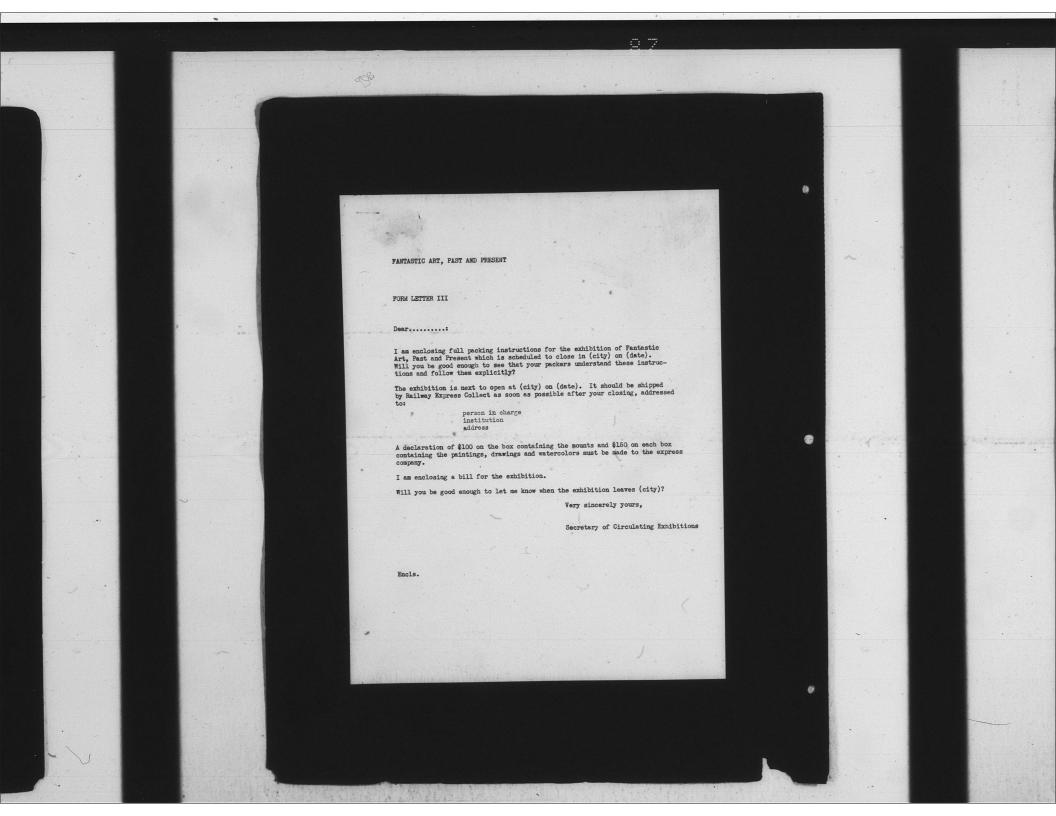
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encls. (unpacking instructions)

Circulating Exhibition The Museum of Modern Art, FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT UNPACKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOX # 1 - MOUNTS 1. Unscrew braces holding packages of mounts in box. 2. Lift out packages one by one and remove wrapping paper. Replace all packing material - wrapping paper, tissue paper, brace, screws - in packing box and put back the cover. UNPACKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOXES #2 and #3 - PAINTINGS Remove screws holding braces marked A and B at sides of box. Lift out braces. Slide paintings out of grooves and remove screws holding boards #1 and #2 attached to backs of paintings. . DO NOT REMOVE METAL PLATES SCREWED INTO BACK OF PICTURES! Remove masking tape pasted over the glass of #186, <u>Jewish</u> Wedding, (in Box #3) and save for future use by placing the gummed tape on the cover of the packing case. 4. Put all packing material - screws, boards, braces - back into the packing case and replace cover. The pictures can be repacked correctly only if the same boards and braces are used. UNPACKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOXES #4 and #5 - GLAZED PICTURES 1. Lift out cardboard cases containing pictures one by one with extreme care. Remove masking tape pasted over the glasses of #586 and #451 (in Box #4) and save for future use in repacking these pictures by Placing the gummed tape on the cover of the packing case. 3. Replace all cardboard cases in packing box and put back cover. NOTE: 31 labels for the exhibition are in Box #4.



Sabilition: FAWLASTIC ART, PASP AND PRESENT

Circulating Exhibition

The Museum of Medern Art, New York

FANTASTIC ART, PAST AND PRESENT

### PACKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOX #1 - MOUNTS

- 1. Divide mounts into six size groups.
- Arrange each group also in order of size, the largest at the bottom.
- 3. Pack mounts face to face with tissue paper between.
- 4. Wrap each group of mounts in heavy brown wrapping paper and fasten with gummed paper.
- Place packages of mounts in packing case in order of size - the largest on the bottom, the two smallest side by side.
- Screw securely into place the wooden brace holding mounts firmly in the box.
- Replace cover and fasten screws tightly into angle irons holding cover in place. Be sure iron washers are on screws before attaching screw heads.

