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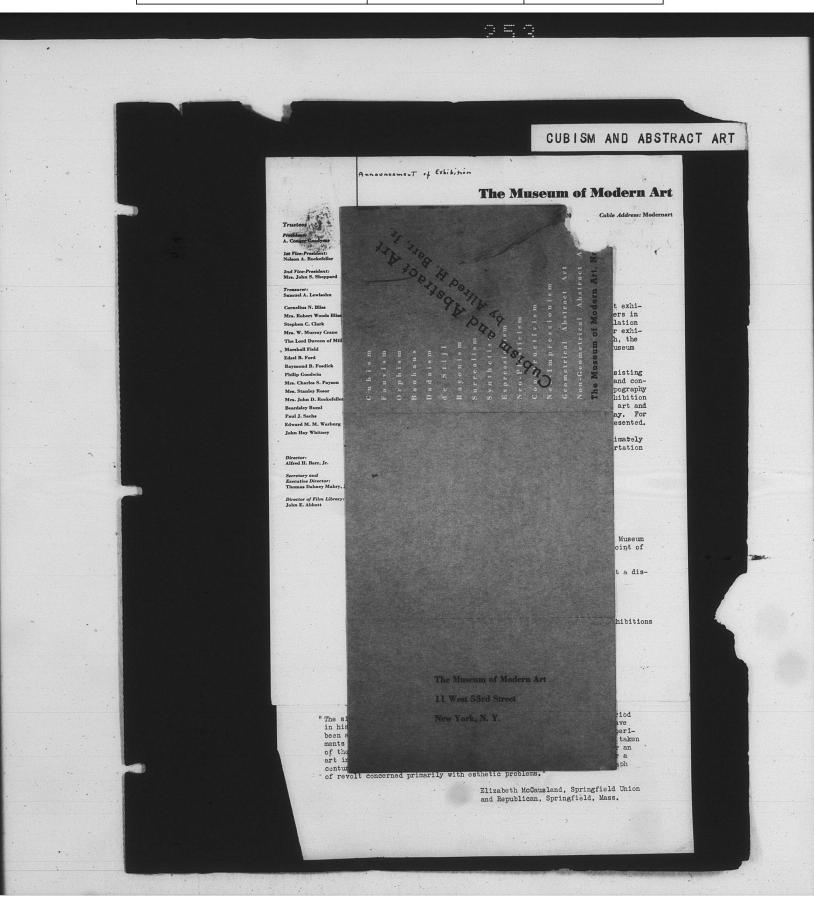
Department of Circulating Exhibitions Records

Series III. Albums

Cubism and Abstract Art

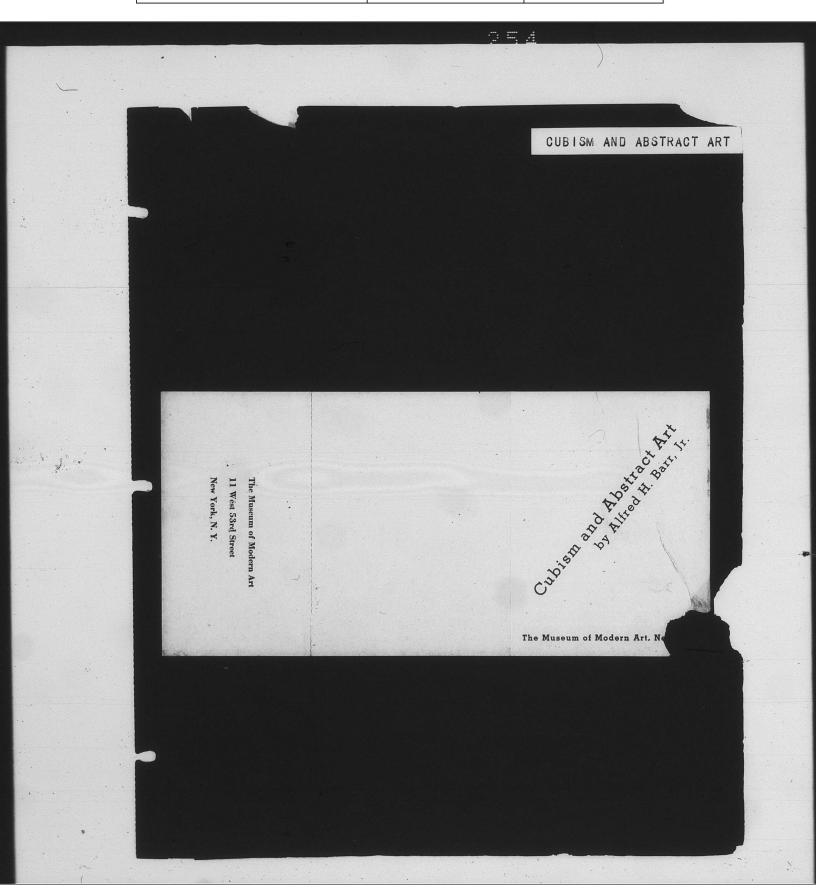
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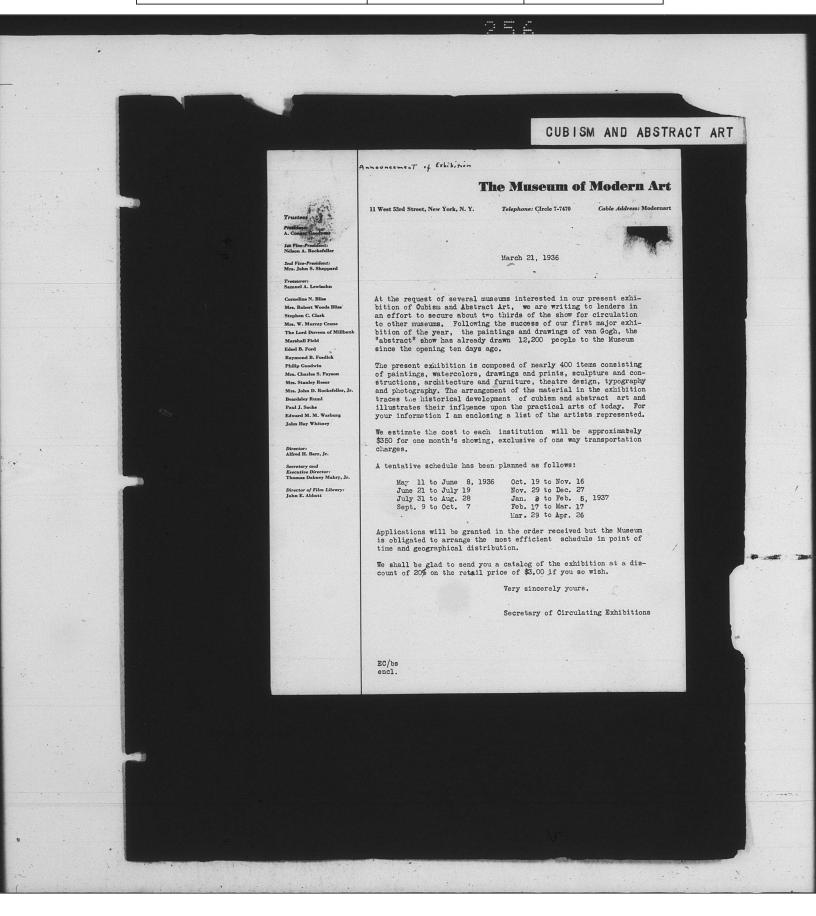
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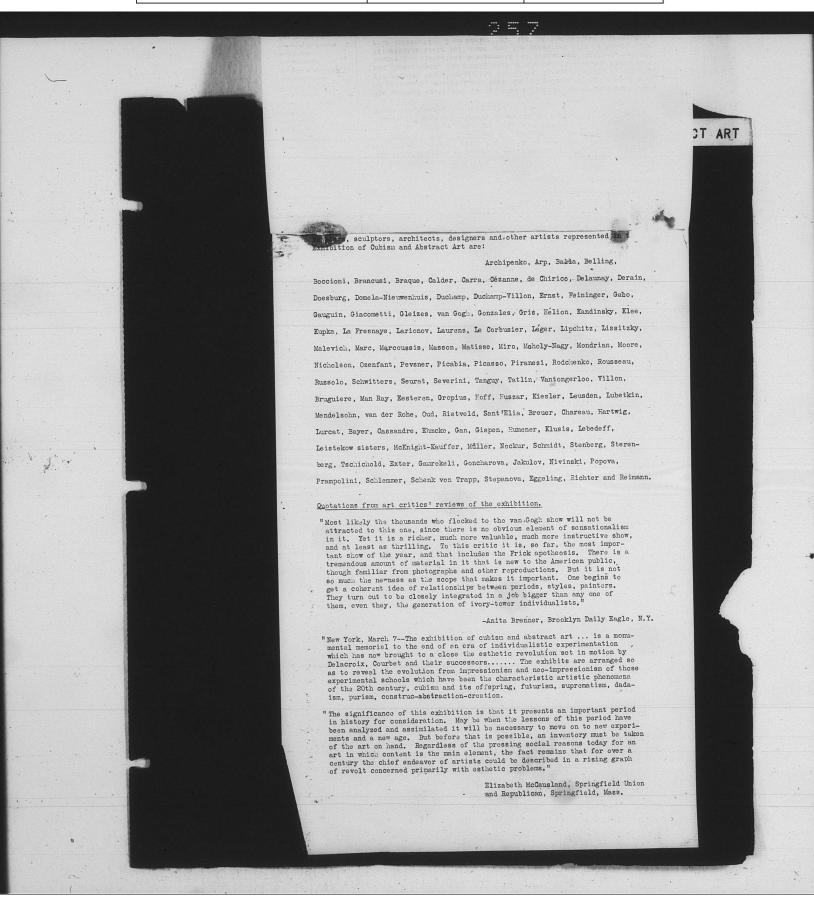
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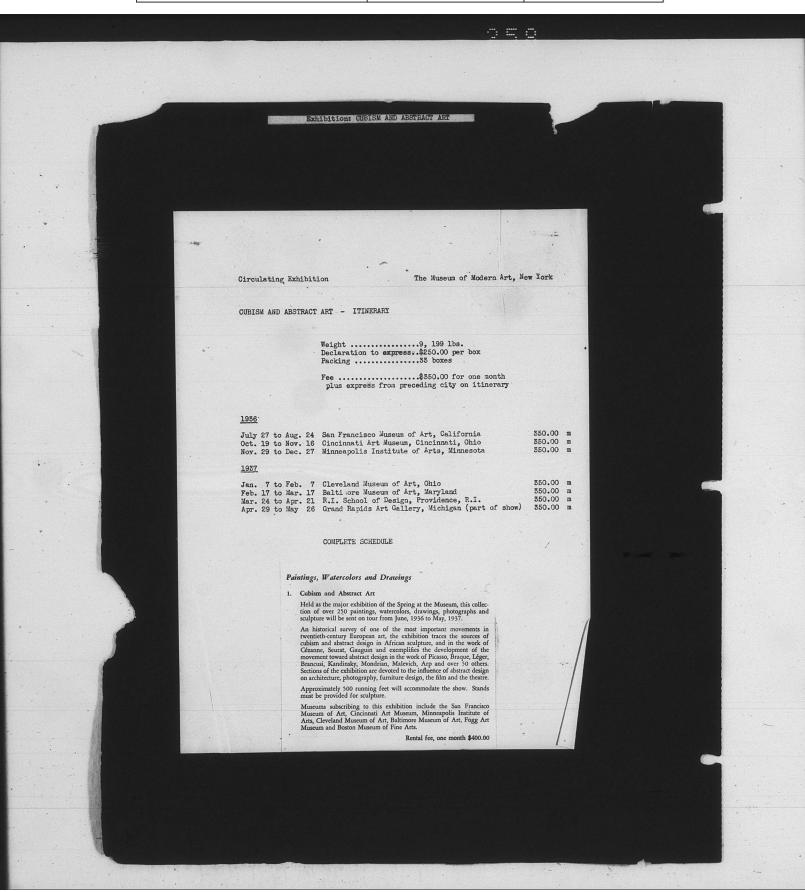
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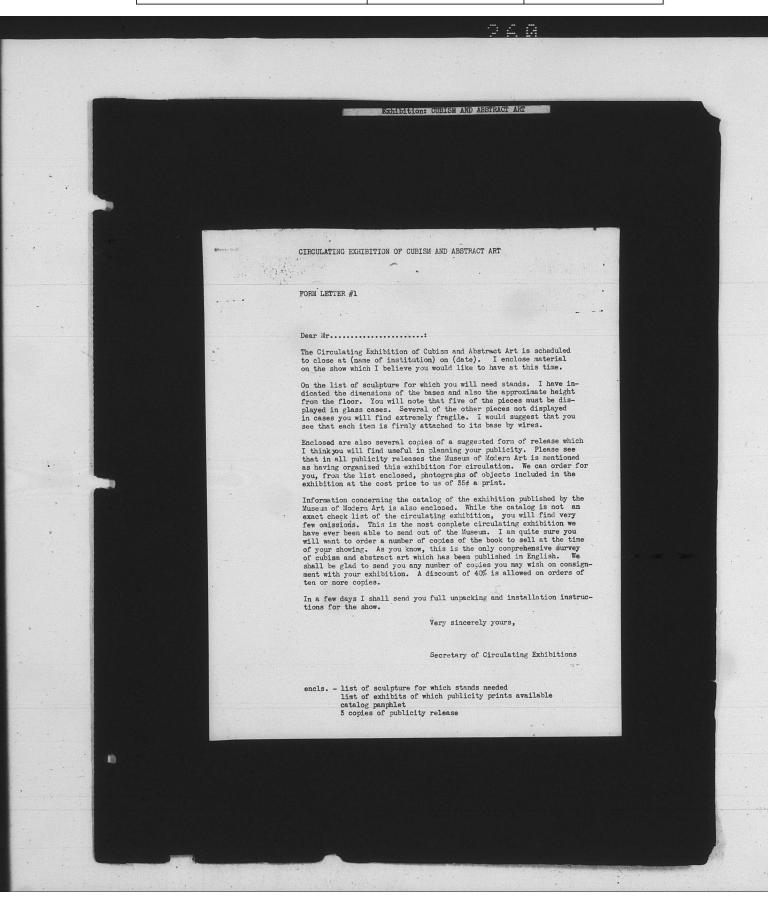
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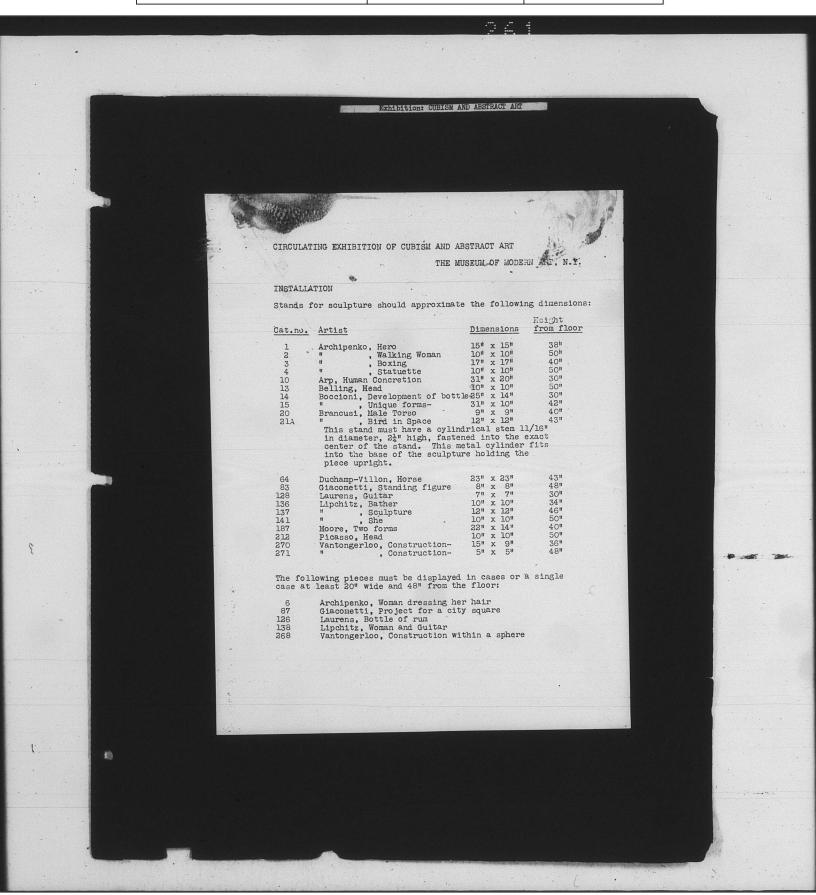
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Exhibition: CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470 FOR RELEASE The first comprehensive Exhibition of Cubism and Abstract Art, the Mingrum of Modern Art from March 3rd to April 19th, 1936, CIRCULATING EXHIBITION OF CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART FORM LETTER #1 Dear Mr....: The Circulating Exhibition of Cubism and Abstract Art is scheduled to close at (name of institution) on (date). I enclose material on the show which I believe you would like to have at this time. On the list of sculpture for which you will need stands. I have indicated the dimensions of the bases and also the approximate height from the floor. You will note that five of the pieces must be displayed in glass cases. Several of the other pieces not displayed in cases you will find extremely fragile. I would suggest that you see that each item is firmly attached to its base by wires. Enclosed are also several copies of a suggested form of release which Enclosed are also several copies of a suggested form of release which is thinkyou will find useful in planning your publicity. Please see that in all publicity releases the Museum of Modern Art is mentioned as having organized this exhibition for circulation. We can order for you, from the list enclosed, photographs of objects included in the exhibition at the cost price to us of 35¢ a print. Information concerning the catalog of the exhibition published by the Museum of Modern Art is also enclosed. While the catalog is not an exact check list of the circulating exhibition, you will find very few omissions. This is the most complete circulating exhibition we have ever been able to send out of the Museum. I am quite sure you will want to order a number of copies of the book to sell at the time of your showing. As you know, this is the only comprehensive survey of cubism and abstract art which has been published in English. We shall be glad to send you any number of codies you may wish on consignment with your exhibition. A discount of 40% is allowed on orders of ten or more codies. ten or more copies. In a few days I shall send you full unpacking and installation instructions for the show. Very sincerely yours, 确 Secretary of Circulating Exhibitions encls. - list of sculpture for which stands needed list of exhibits of which publicity prints available catalog pamphlet
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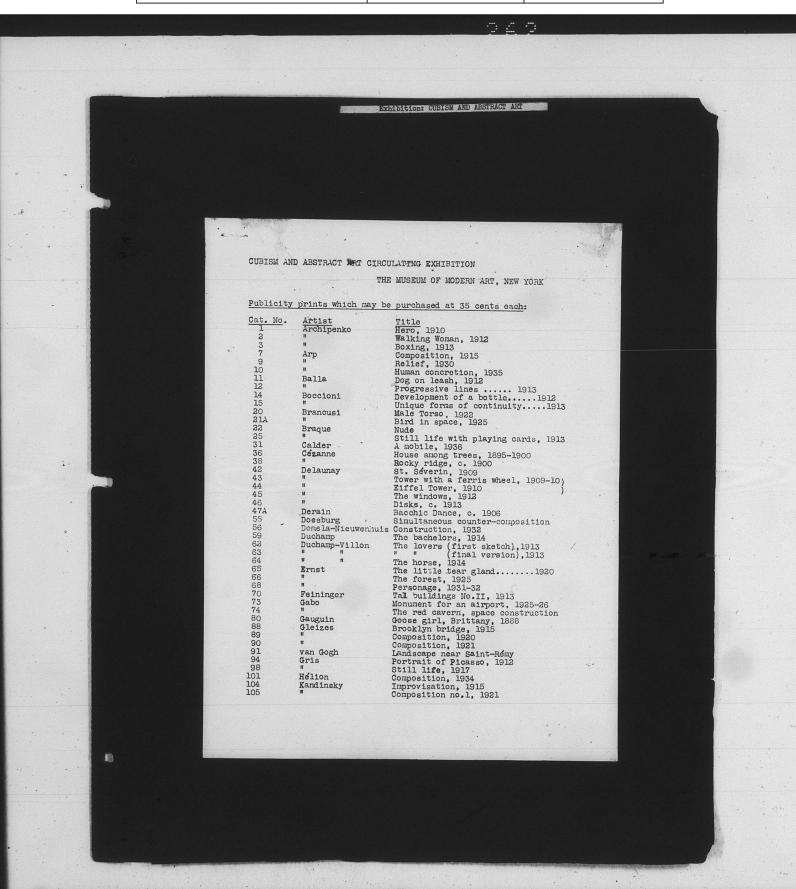
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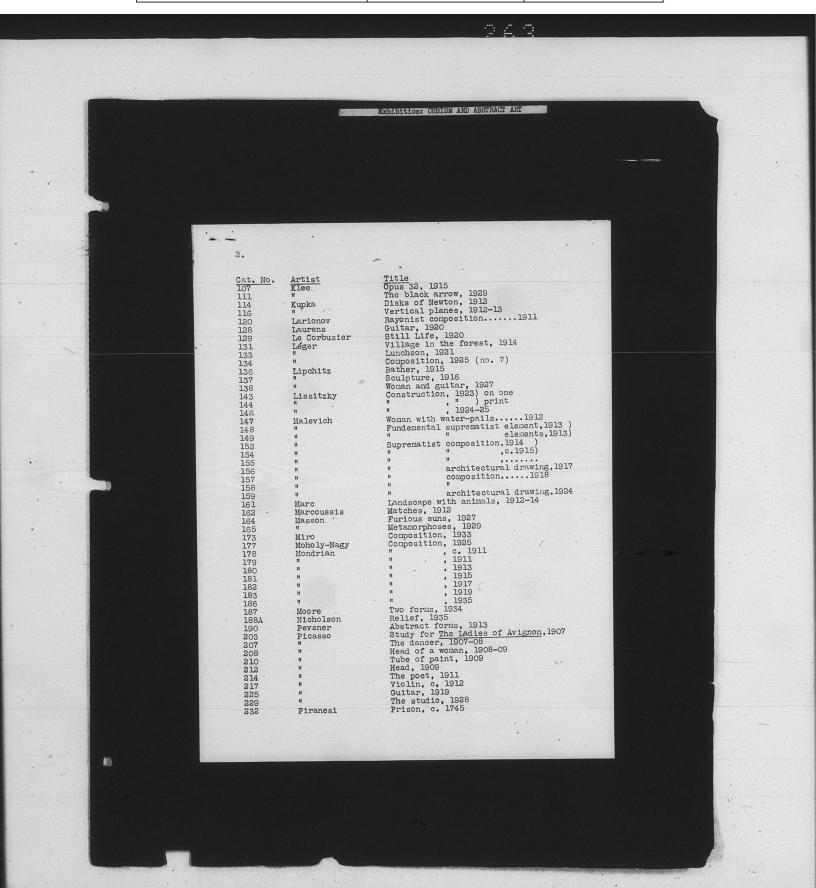
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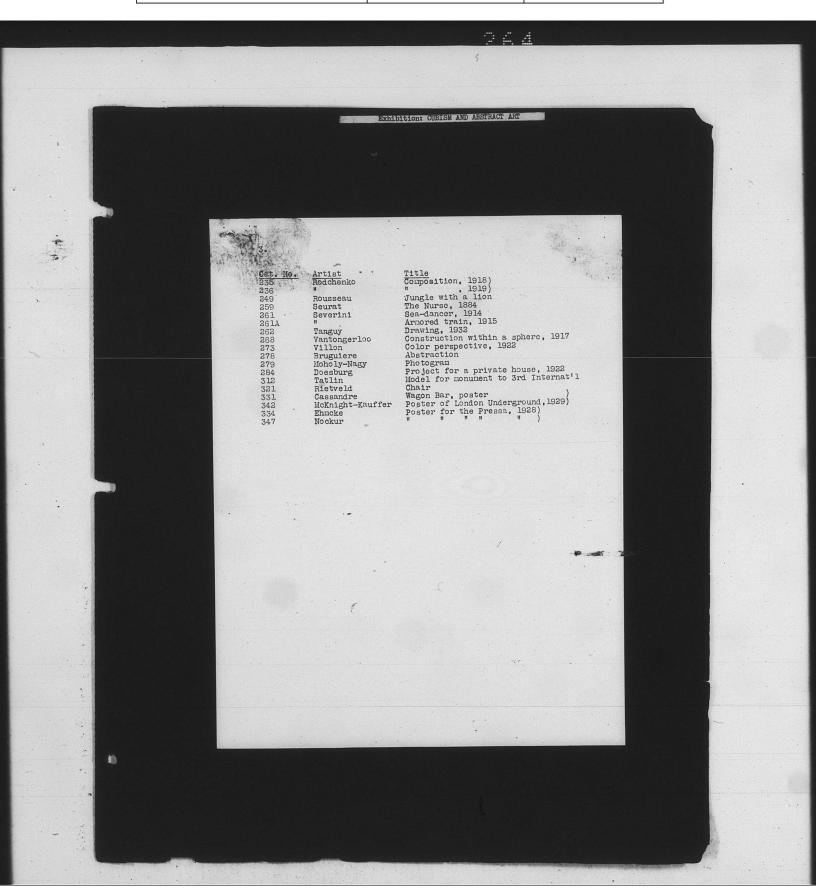
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7.7470

FOR RELEASE

Exhibition: CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART

The exhibition is composed of over two hundred items consisting of paintings, watercolors, drawings and prints, sculpture and constructions, typography, photographs of architecture, furniture and theatre design. The arrangement of the material in the exhibition traces the development of cubism and abstract art and indicates the influence of this movement on the practical arts of today.

In his Introduction to the catalog of the Exhibition, <u>Cubism</u> and <u>Abstract Art</u>, Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum, writes: "Sometimes in the history of art it is possible to describe a period or a generation of artists as having been obsessed by a particular problem. The artists of the early fifteenth century, for instance, were moved by a passion for imitating nature In the early twentieth century the dominant interest was almost exactly opposite. The pictorial conquest of the external visual world had been completed and refined many times and in different ways during the previous half-millenium. The more adventurous and original artists had grown bored with painting facts. By a common and powerful impulse they were driven to abandon the imitation of natural appearance.

"'Abstract' is the term most frequently used to describe the more extreme effects of this impulse away from 'nature.' Purcabstractions are those in which the artist makes a composition of abstract elements such as geometrical or amorphous shapes. Near-abstractions are compositions in which the artist, starting with natural forms, transforms them into abstract or nearly abstract forms. He approaches an abstract goal but does not quite reach it......

Take for instance Picasso's Violin: starting with the idea or image of a violin Picasso makes an angular, quasi-geometrical composition

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Exhibition: CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART

- 2 -

which displays his power not merely of composing abstract forms but of breaking up and assimilating natural forms. As evidence of this abstracting and transmuting process and as a guide to our enjoyment of it he leaves certain vestiges of the violin, the spiral line of the scroll, the shape of the sound-holes, the parallel lines of the strings and the curves of the purflings; and as further explanation he gives the name of the original object--Violin.

"Abstract art today needs no defense. It has become one of the many ways to paint or carve or model. But it is not yet a kind of art which people like without some study and some sacrifice of prejudice..... It is based upon the assumption that a work of art, a painting for example, is worth looking at primarily because it presents a composition or organization of color, line, light and shade. Resemblance to natural objects, while it does not necessarily destroy these esthetic values, may easily adulterate their purity. Therefore, since resemblance to nature is at best superfluous and at worst distracting, it might as well be eliminated. Hans Arp, although he long ago abandoned pure-abstraction, has expressed this point of view with engaging humor:

"'Art is a fruit growing out of a man like the fruit out of a plant, like the child out of the mother. While the fruit of the plant assumes independent forms and never strives to rescable a helicopter or a president in a cutaway, the artistic fruit of man shows, for the most part, ridiculous ambition to imitate the appearance of other things. I like nature but not its substitute.'

"Such an attitude of course involves a great impoverishment of painting, an elimination of a wide range of values, such as the connotations of subject matter, sentimental, documentary, political, sexual, religious; the pleasures of easy recognition; and the enjoyment of technical dexterity in the imitation of material forms and surfaces. But in his art the abstract artist prefers impoverishment to adulteration.

"The painter of abstractions can and often does point to the analogy of music in which the elements of rhythmic repetition, pitch, intensity, harmony, counterpoint, are composed without reference to the natural sounds of either the 'Helicopter' or the 'President in a cutaway.' He looks upon abstract painting as independent painting, emancipated painting; as an end in itself with its own peculiar value."

Painters, sculptors, architects, designers and other artists

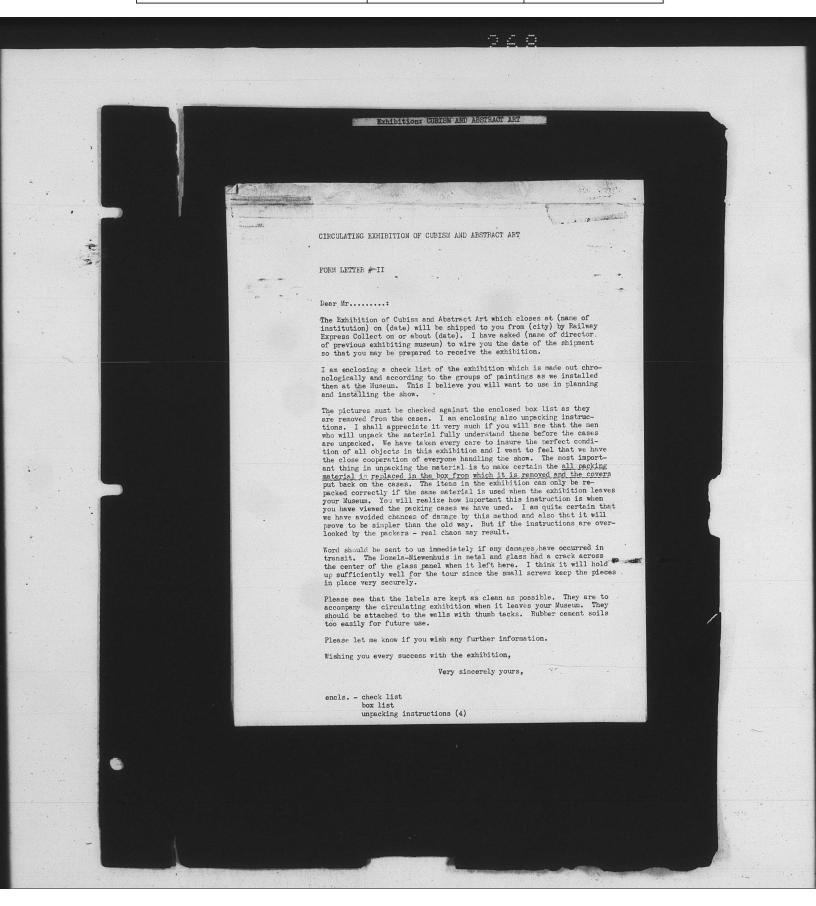
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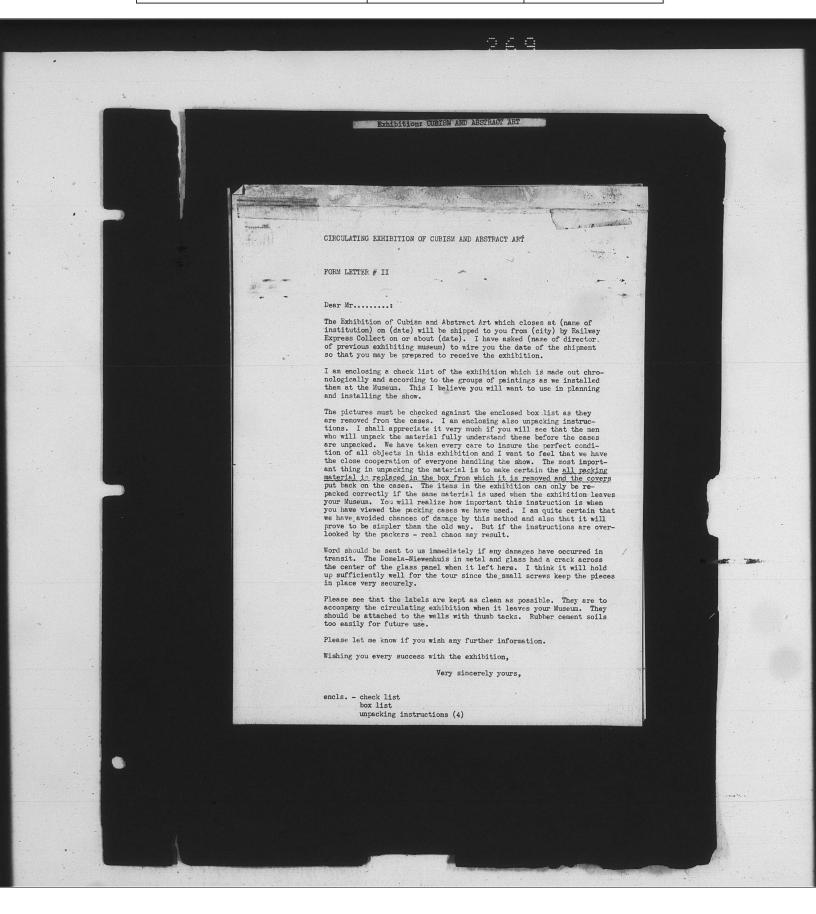
represented in the Exhibition are: Archipenko, Arp, Balla, Belling, Brancusi, Braque, Calder, Cézanne, Delaunay, Derain, Does-Surs, Domela-Nicuwenhuis, Duchamp, Duchamp-Villon, Ernst, Feininger, Gabo, Gauguin, Giacometti, Gleizes, van Gogh, Gris, Hélion, Kandinsky, Klee, Kupka, La Fresnaye, Larionov, Laurens, Le Corbusier, Léger, Lipchitz, Lissitzky, Malevich, Marc, Marcoussis, Masson, Miro, Moholy-Nagy, Mondrian, Moore, Nicholson, Pevsner, Picasso, Piranesi, Rodchenko, Rousseau, Schwitters, Seurat, Severini, Tanguy, Tatlin, Vantonger-loo, Villon, Brugière, Ray, Gropius, Hoff, Huszar, Kiesler, Lubetkin, Mendelsohn, Miès van der Rohe, Oud, Rictveld, Sant'Elia, Brouer, Chareau, Hartwig, Lurcat, Cassandre, Gamrekeli, Goncharova, Jakulov, Nivinski, Leusden and Exter.

The material for the Exhibition has been selected from the following collections in this country and abroad: Mrs. Alexander Archipenko of Hollywood, CALIFORNIA; Philip Johnson, New London, OHIO; M. Therèse Bonney, Alexander Calder, Walter P. Chrysler, Jr., Frank Crowninshield, Miss Katherine S. Dreier, A. Conger Goodyear, Hunt Henderson, Mrs. Edith J. R. Isaacs, Sidney Janis, T. Catesby Jones, Frederick Kiesler, George L. K. Morris, J. B. Neumann, Miss Elsie Ray, Mrs. Charles H. Russell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson Sweeney, Mrs. George Henry Warren, Jr., of NEW YORK; Giacomo Balla, ROME; Hans Arp and Mme. Petro van Doesburg of Meudon-val-Fleury and Georges Braque, Le Corbusier, Mme. Cuttoli, Robert Delaunay, César Domela-Nieuwenhuis, Estate of Raymond Duchamp-Villon, Nahum Gabo, Alberto Giacometti, Mme. Paul Guillaume, Henry Kahnweiler, Frank Kupka, Michael Larionov, Jacques Lipchitz, Piet Mondrian, Antoine Pevsner, Léonce Rosenberg, Paul Rosenberg, Georges Vantongerloo, and Christian Zervos of Paris, FRANCE; Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson of LONDON; Société Anonyme, The Bignou Gallery, The Brummer Gallery, M. Knoedler and Company, Julian Levy Gallery, Pierre Matisse Gallery, Raymond and Raymond, Inc., Valentine Gallery, Weyho Gallery, Wildenstein and Company of NEW YORK; The Kroller-Muller Foundation, Wassenaar, THE NETHERLANDS; Galerie Simon, PARIS; and The Gallery of Modern Art, MILAN.

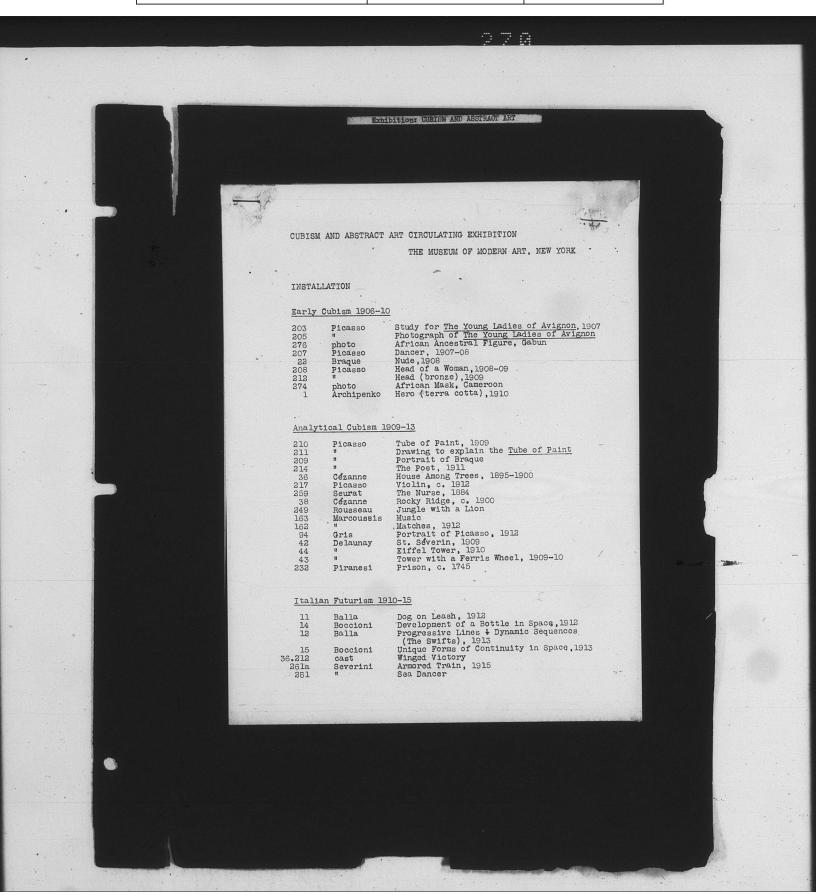
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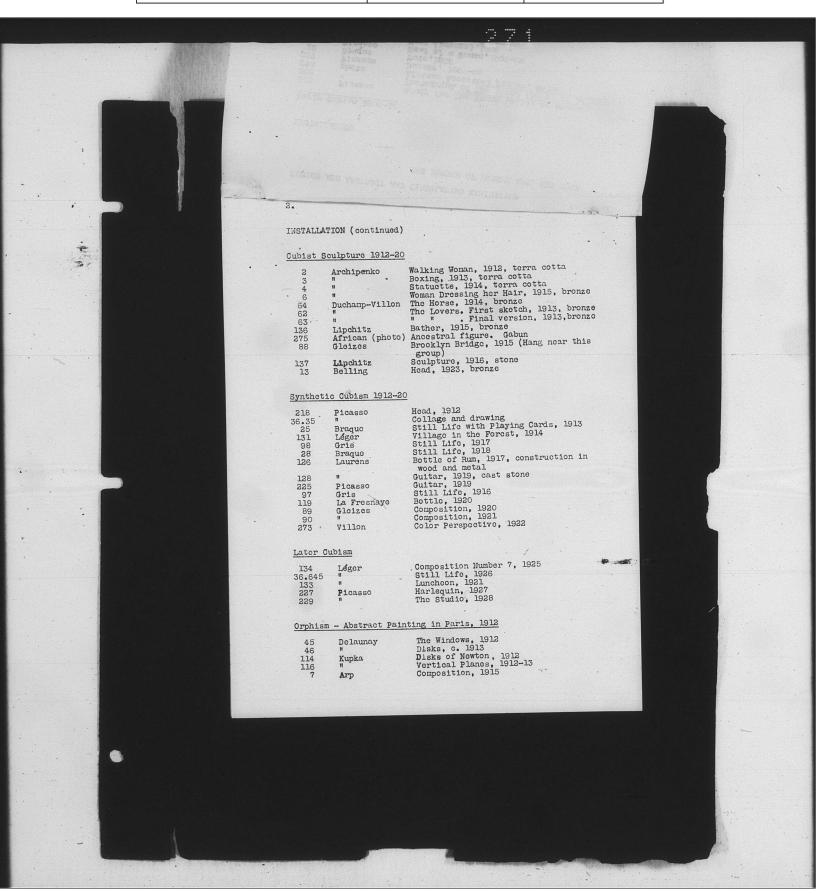
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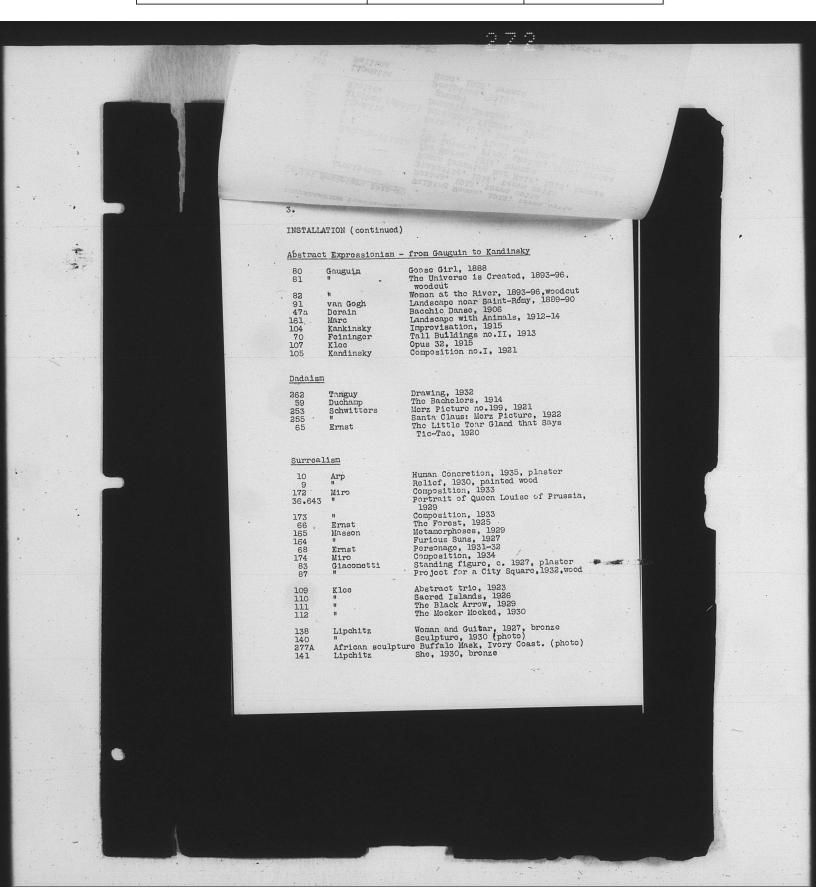
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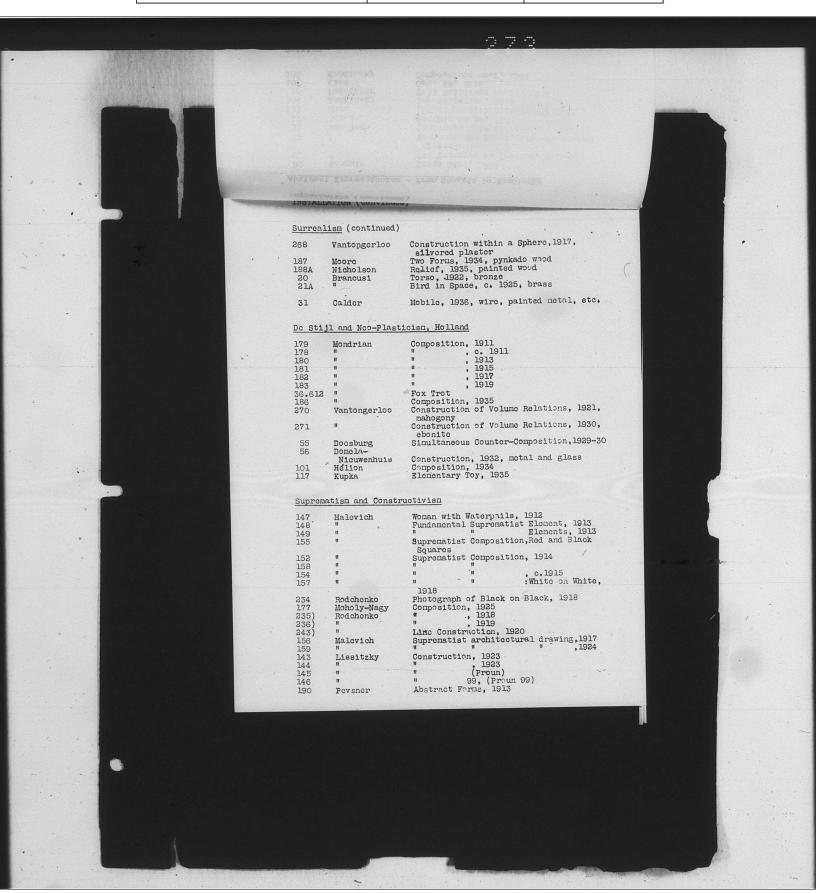
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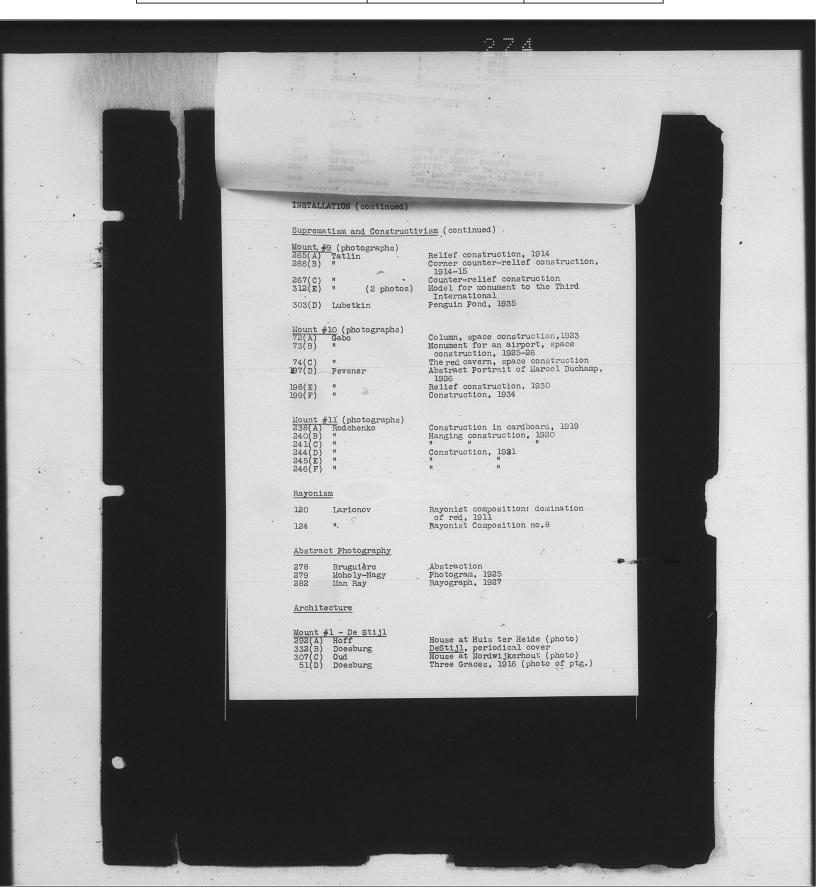
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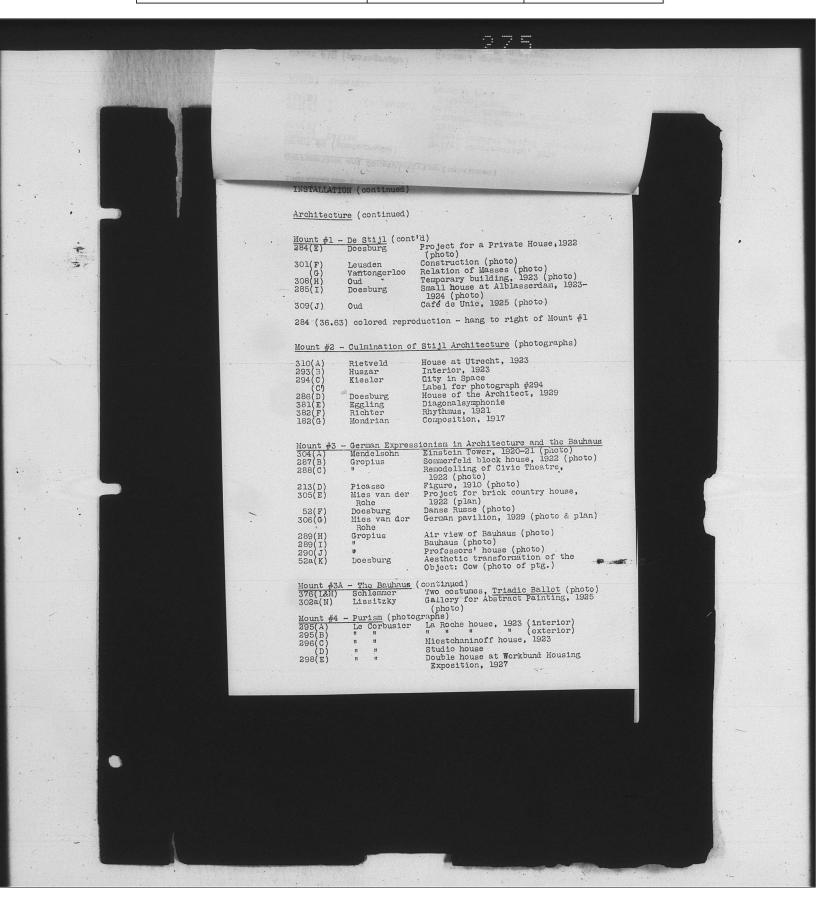
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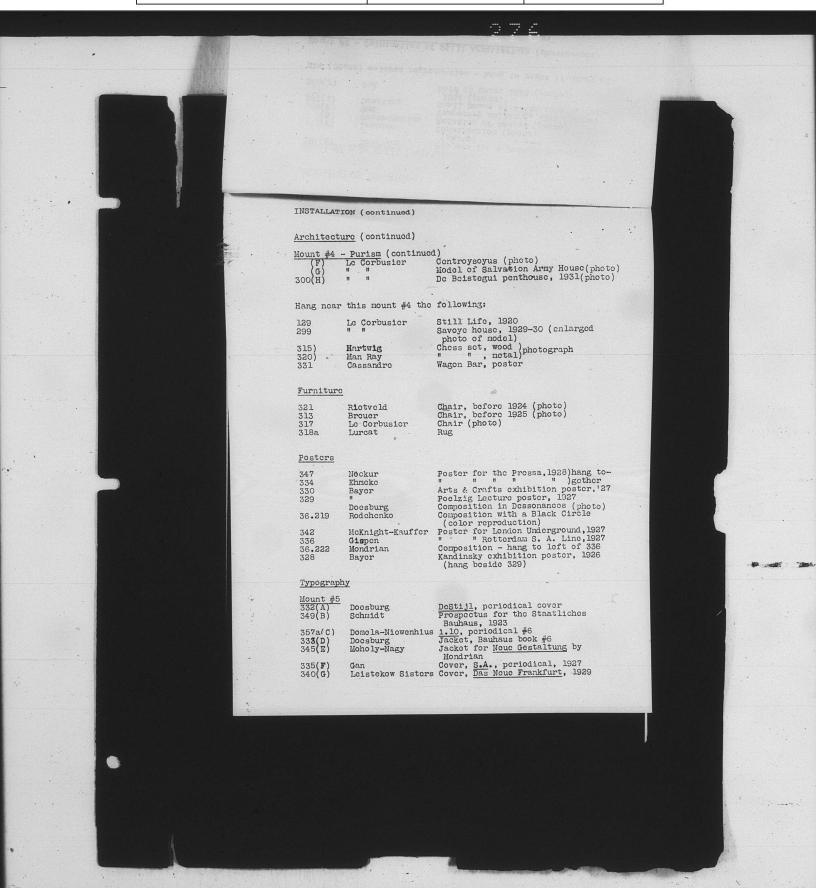
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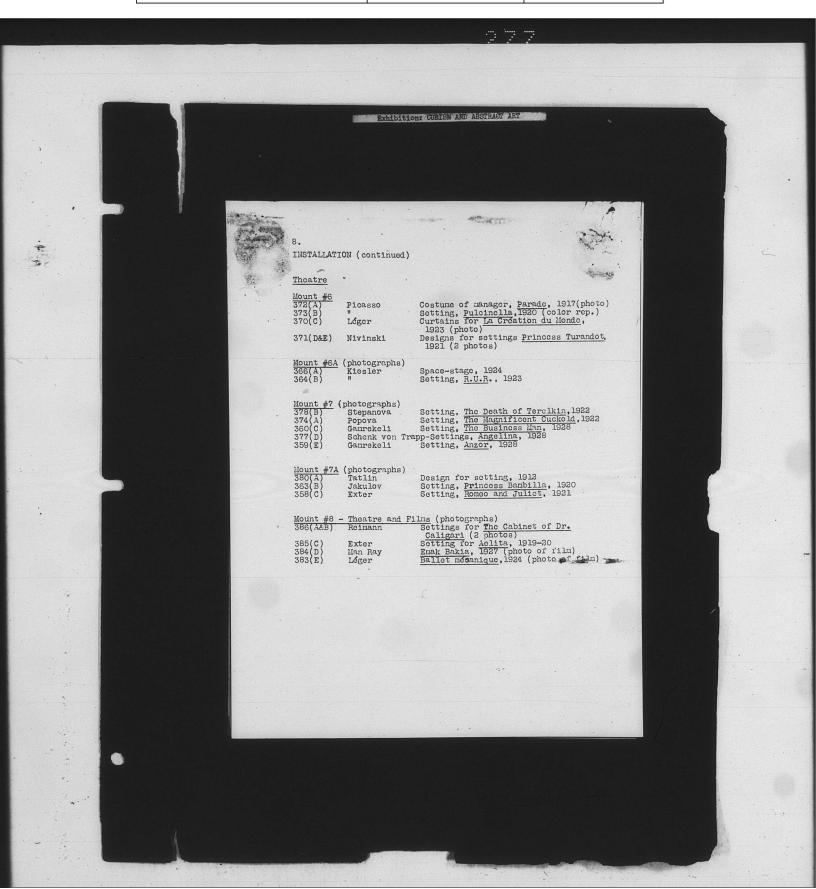
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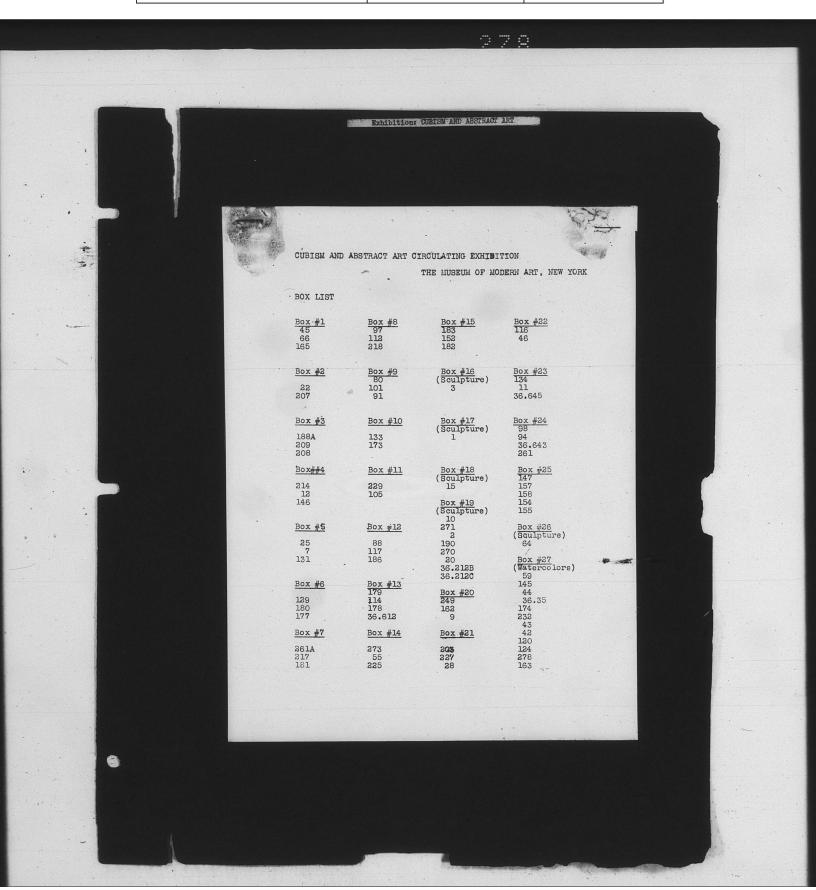
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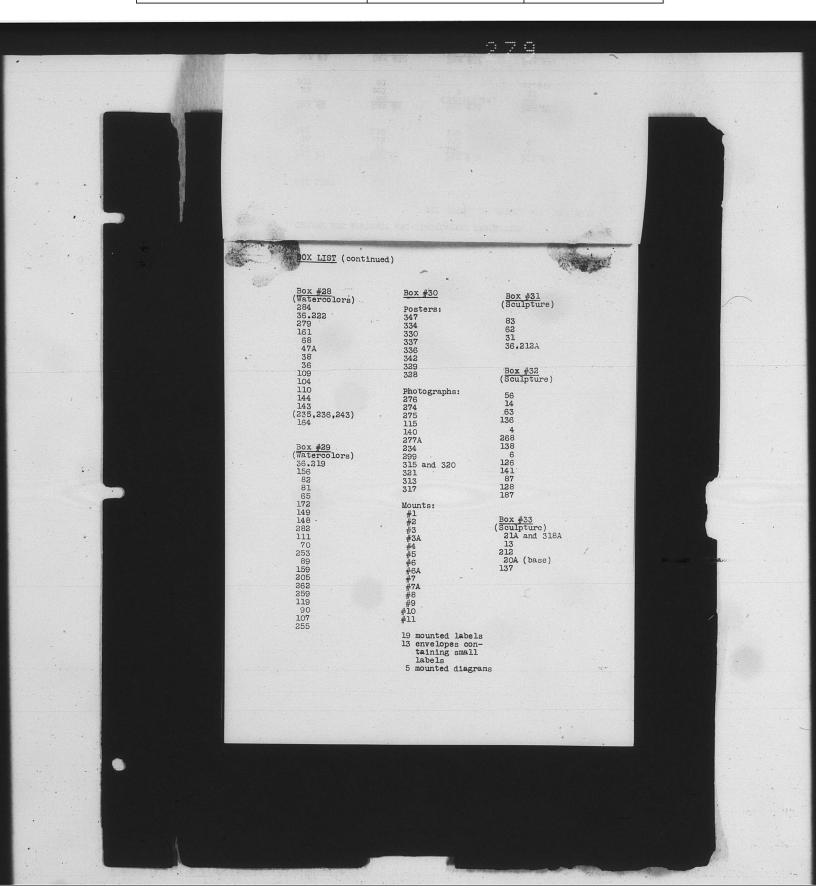
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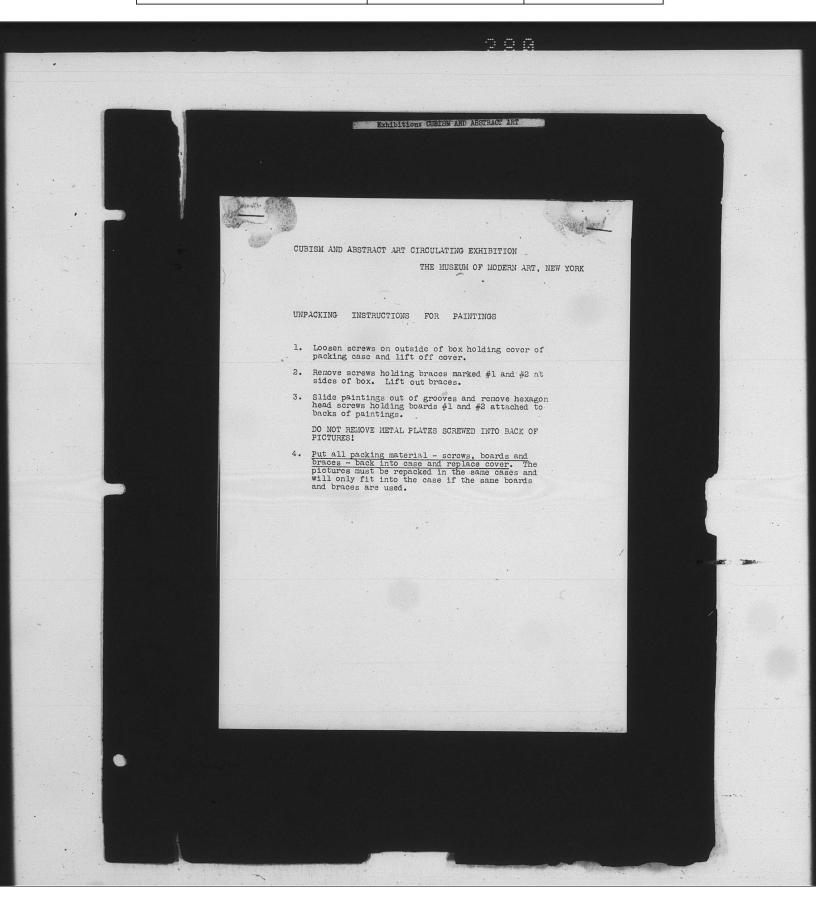
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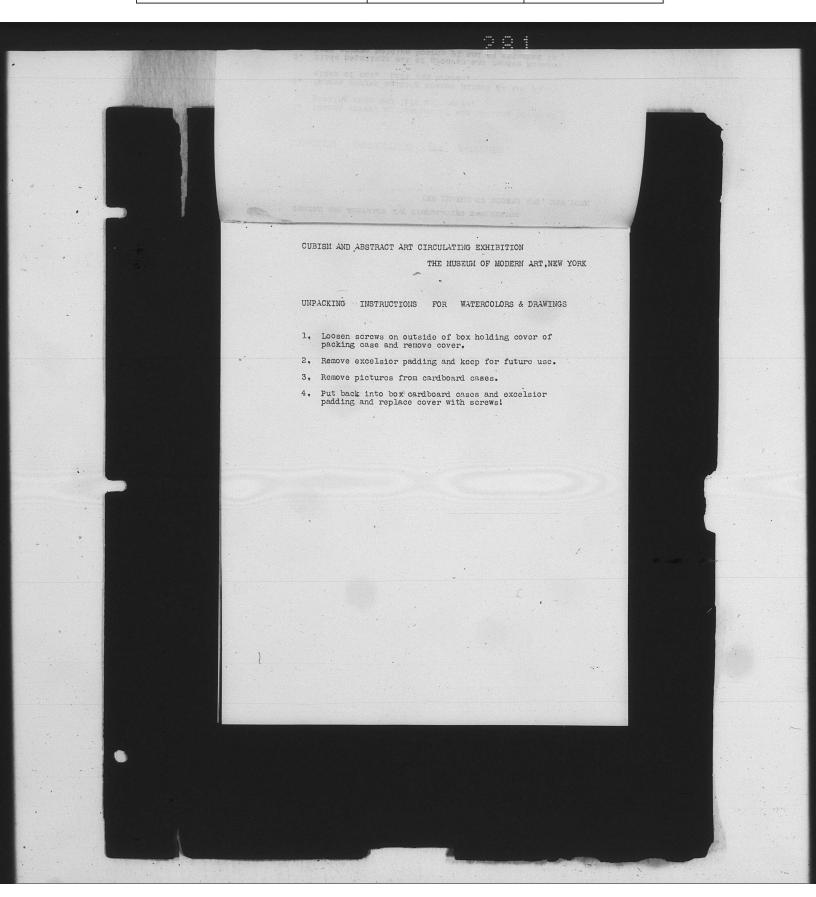
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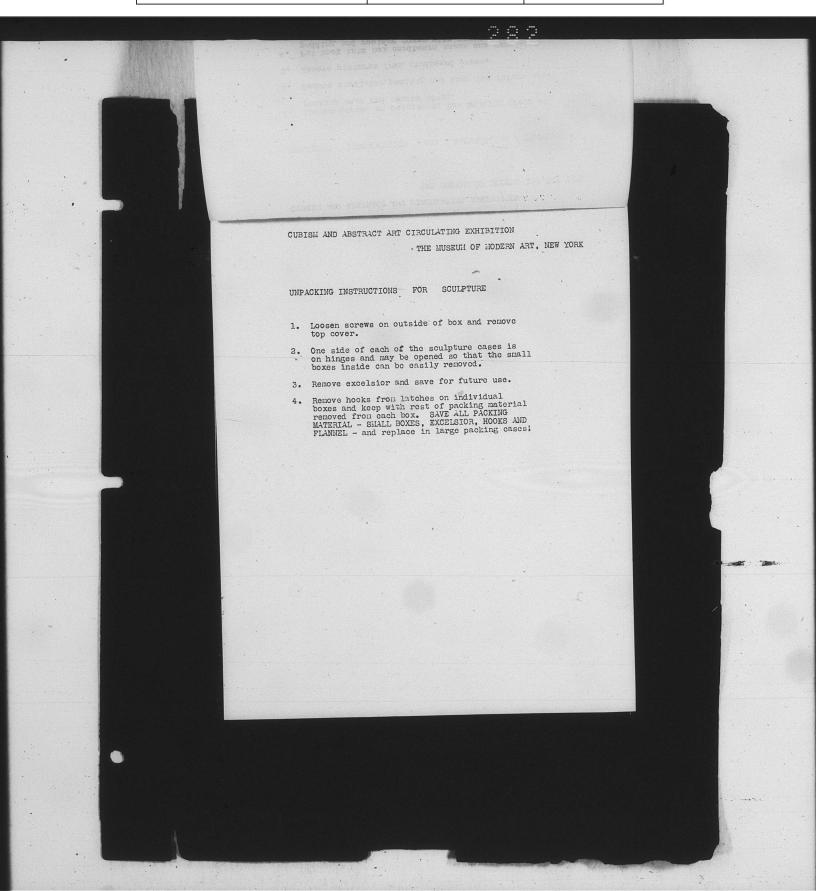
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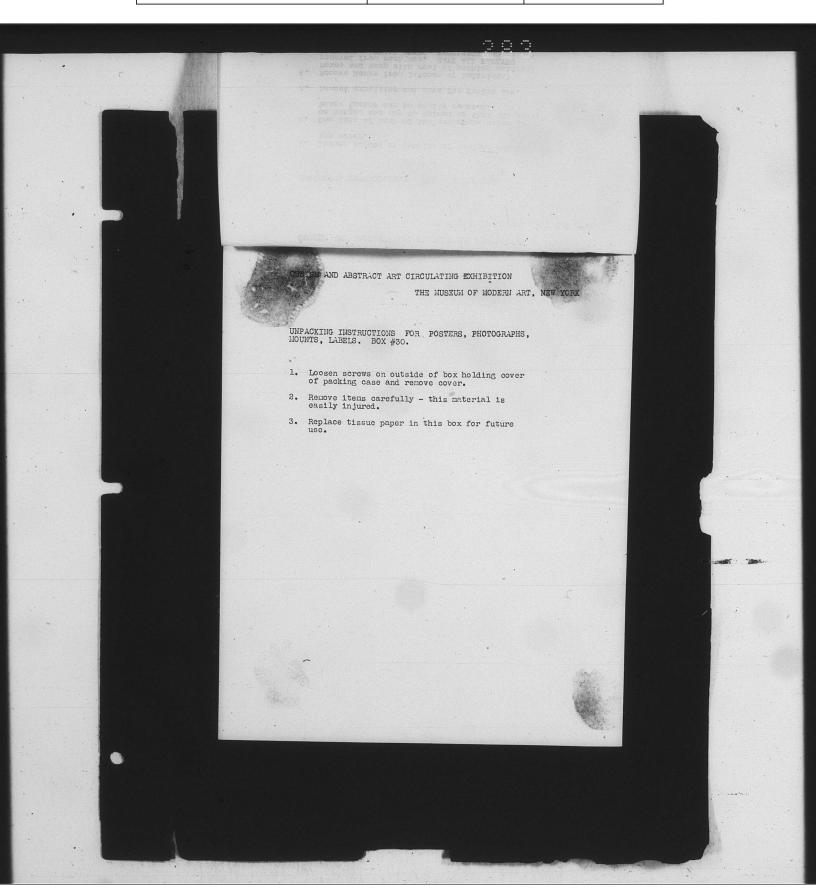
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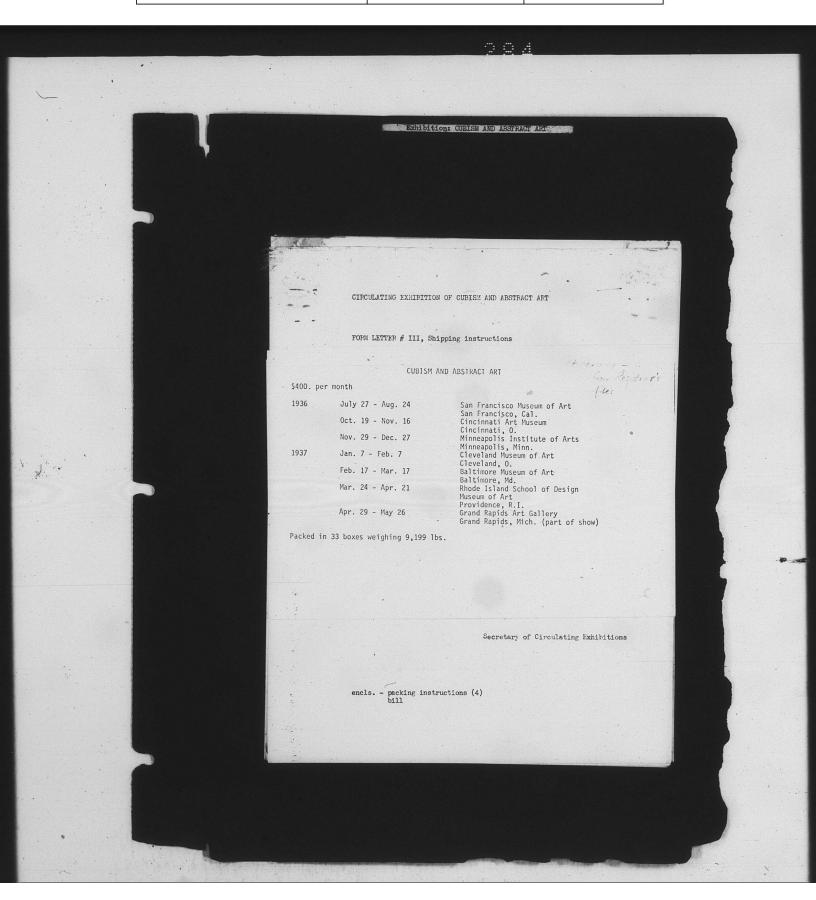
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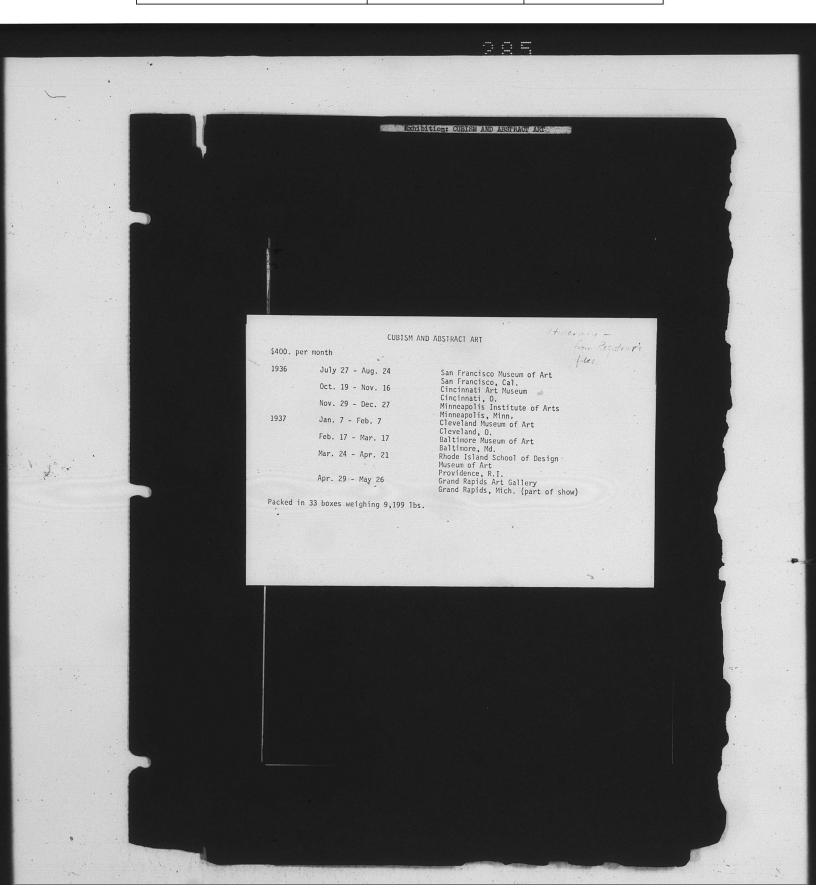
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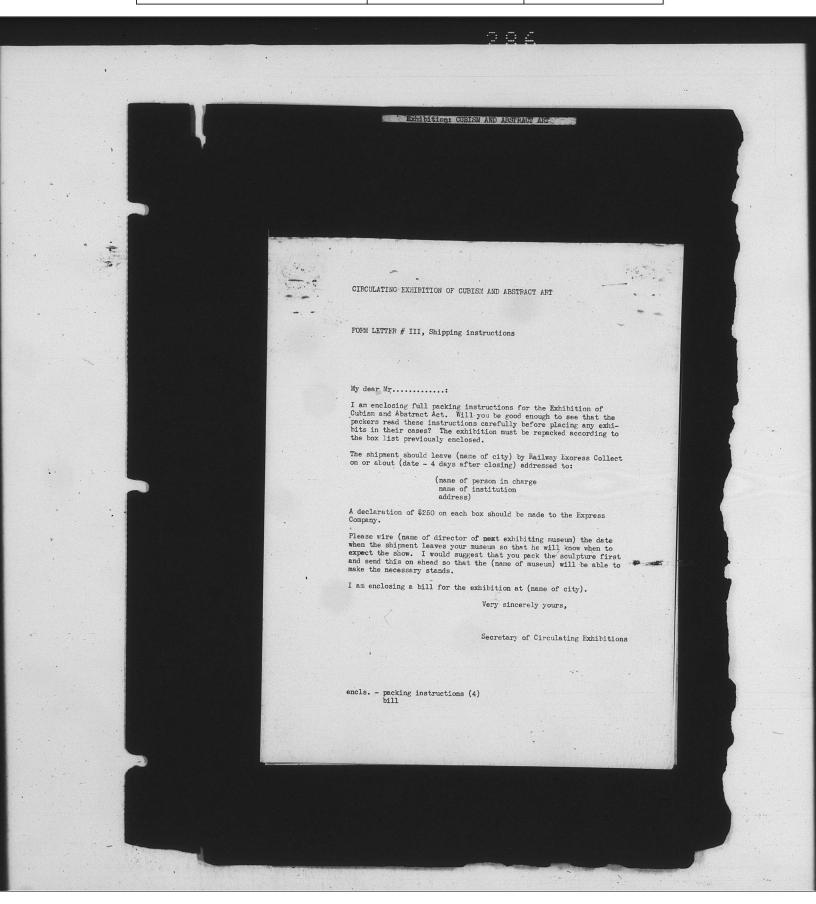
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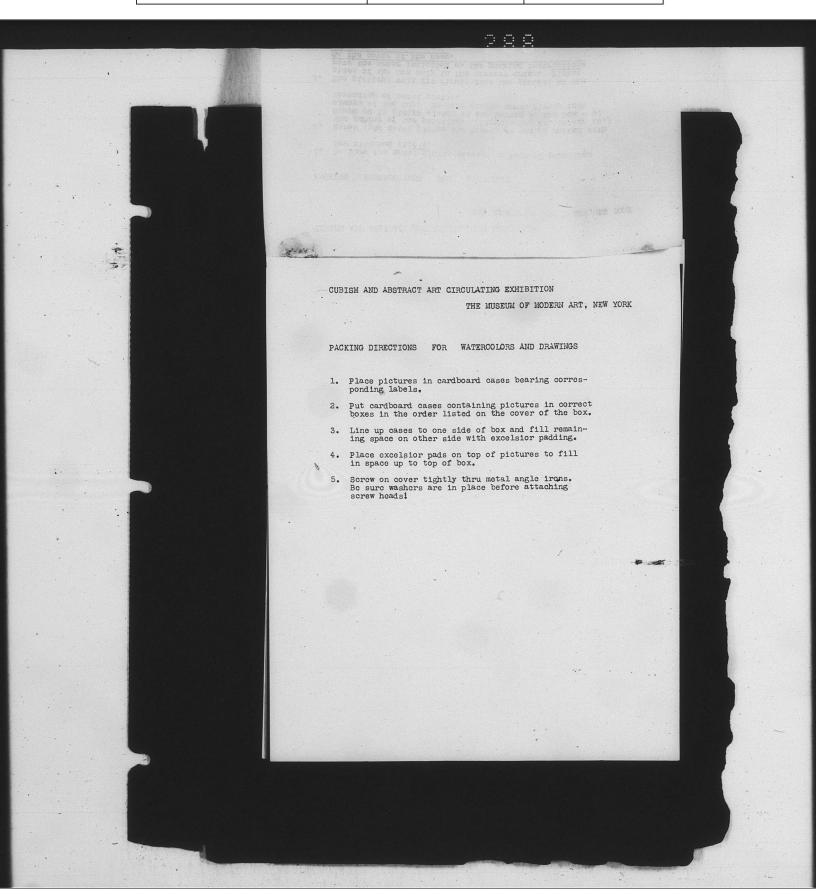
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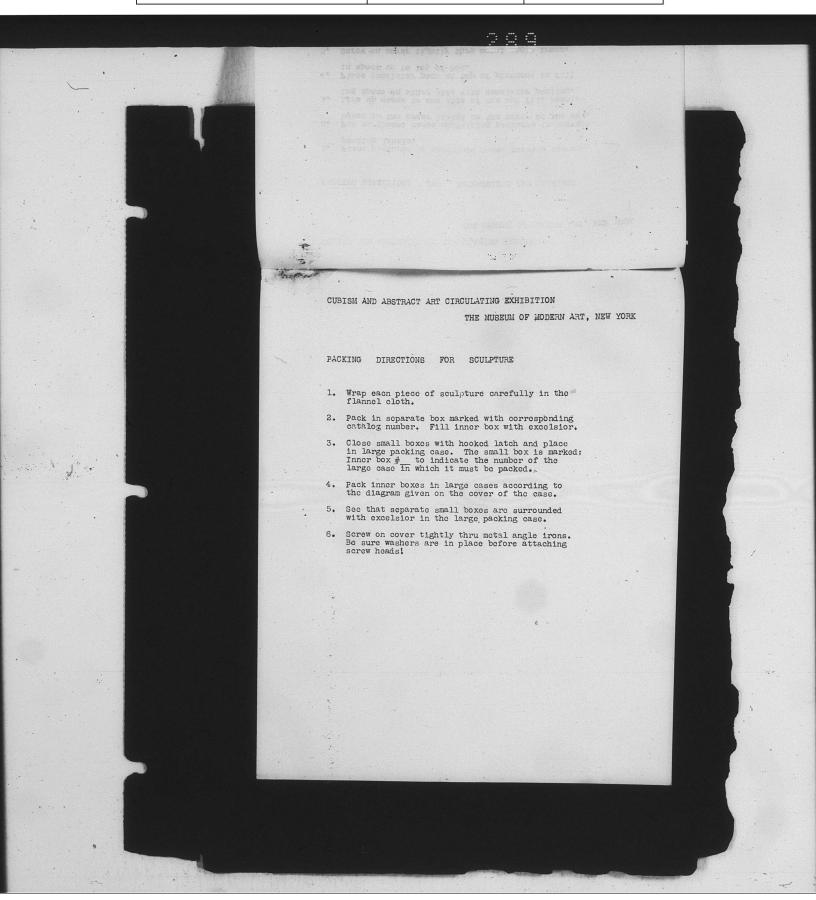
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Exhibition: CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART CIRCULATING EXHIBITION THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK PACKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAINTINGS Be sure the metal plates screwed to back of paintings are attached firmly. 2. Screw into metal plates the boards #1 and #2 marked with the number of the painting. (Circulating Exhibition no.) Board #2 is always placed at the bottom of the box - #1 always at the top. Be sure screws catch firmly into threading of metal plates. 3. The pictures will fit firmly into the grooves at the sides of the box only in the correct order. Please note the order indicated on the packing instructions on the cover of the case. 4. Screw securely into place braces marked #1 and #2 at sides of box. These braces will fit firmly in place holding down the boards attached to the pictures. Replace cover and fasten sorews tightly into angle irons holding cover in place. Be sure that washers are placed on screws before attaching screw heads! Note: Paste a sheet of wrapping paper over the surface of all glazed pictures. The sheet of paper should be at least five inches wider all around than the actual glass surface,

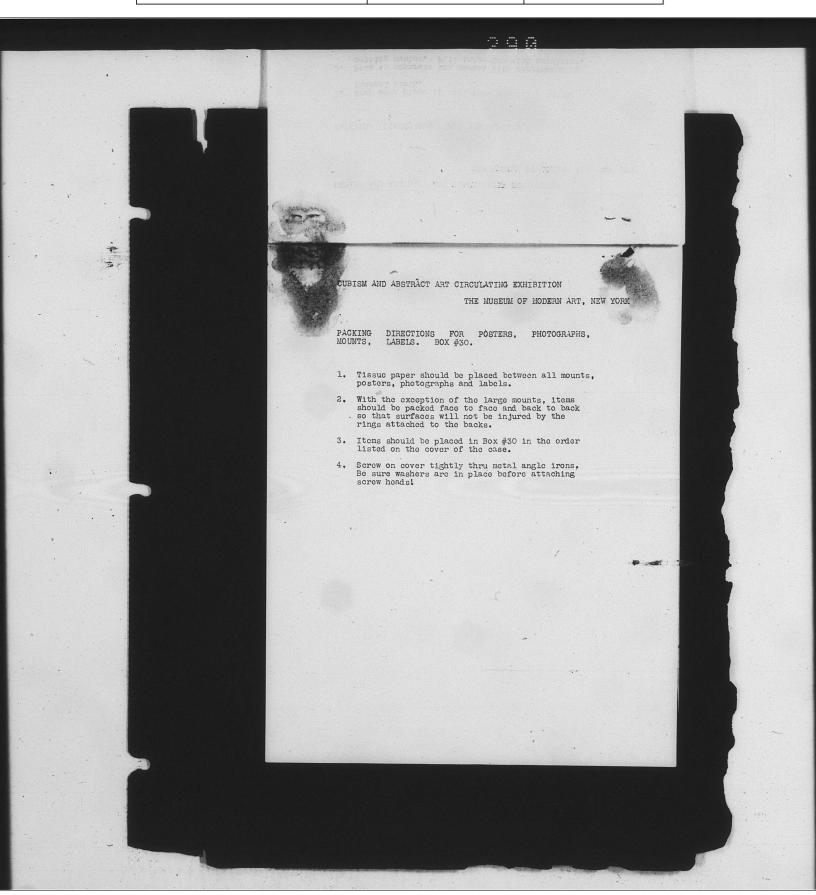
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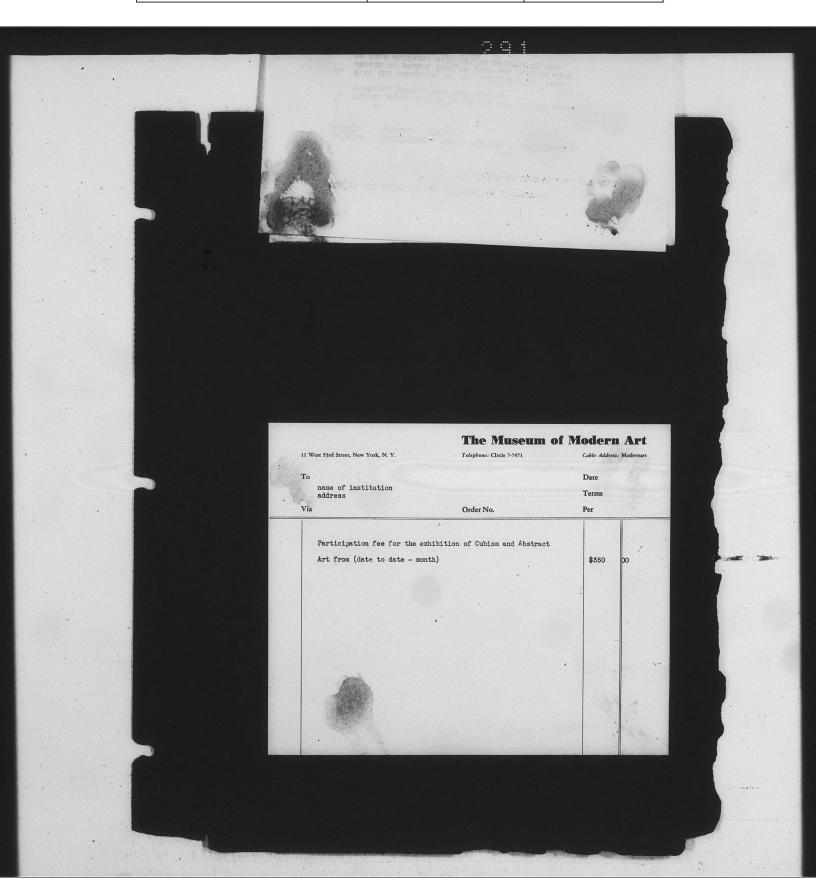
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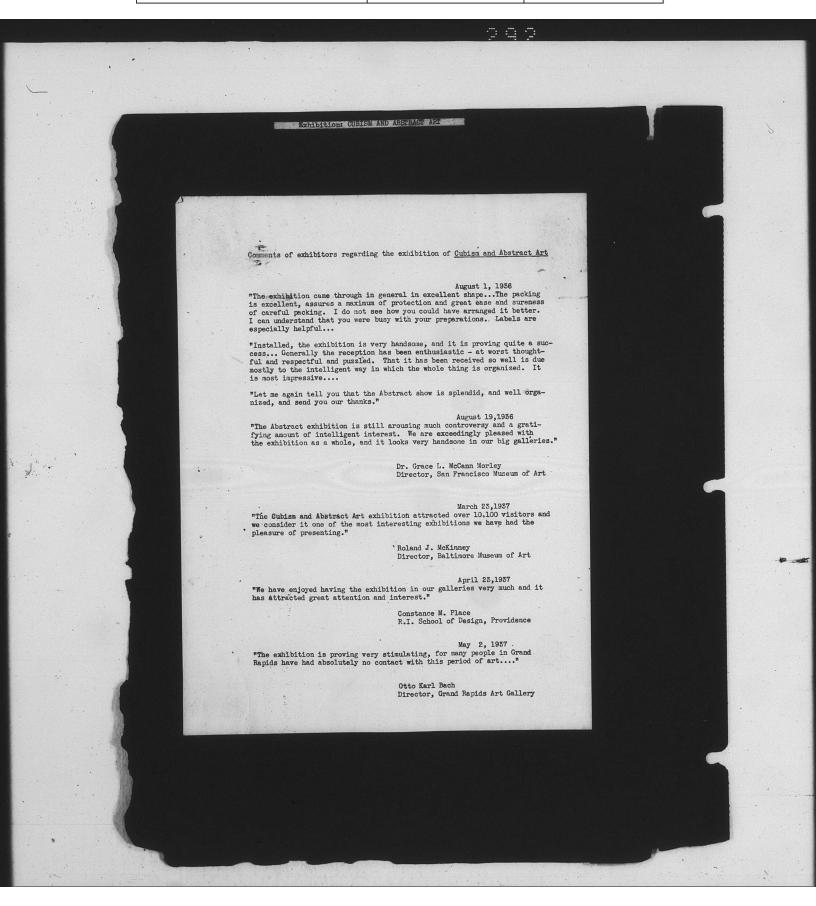
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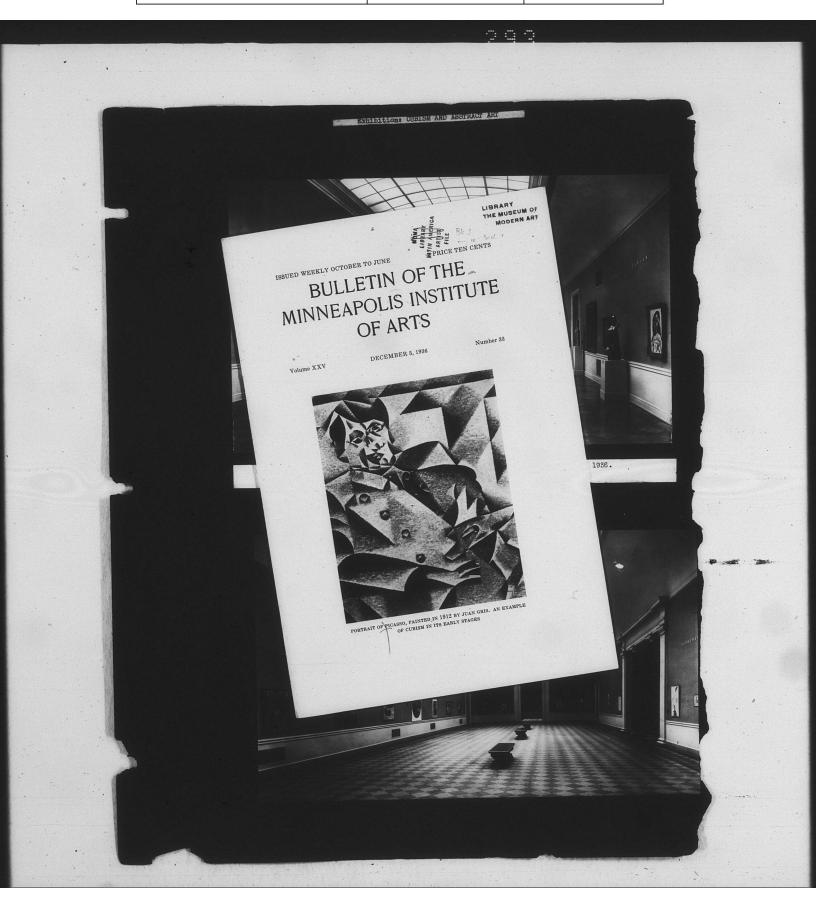
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162 BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

EXHIBITION OF CUBIST AND ABSTRACT ART

were driven to abandon the imitation on natural appearance.

"Abstract' is the term most fre-quently used to describe the more ex-treme effects of this impulse away from 'nature'. Pure-abstractions are those in which the artist makes a composition of abstract elements such as geometrical or amorphous shapes. Near-abstractions are compositions in which the artist, starting with natural forms, transforms

APOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

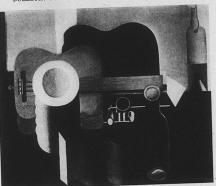
them into abstract or nearly abstract forms. He approaches an abstract goal but does not quite reach it. ... Take for instance Picasso's Violin: starting with the idea or image of a violin Picasso makes an angular, quasi-geometrical composition which displays his power not merely of composing abstract forms but of breaking up and assimilating natural forms. As evidence of this abstracting and transmuting process and as a guide to our enjoyment of it he leaves octain vestiges of the violin, the spiral line of the scroll, the shape of the sound-holes, the parallel lines of the strings, and the curves of the purflings; and as further explanation he gives the name of the original object — Violin.*

But what do these pictures, this sulpture, mean! How, to use a tarrand contemporary slang phrases due they get that way! These are questions which the most reasonable of visitors which the most reasonable of visitors which the most reasonable of visitors of the exhibition may well ash. In will find themselves as they more from carvas to can vary a, bur for information of the content of the properties and properties of the properti

tirely clear without an understanding of its past. Let us, then, glance backward some sixty years.

We find ourselves in France. An art-conscious public is in a state of semi-hysteria because a group of painters are — so it claims — insulting its intelligence. Monet, Renoir, Pissaro, and others are painting nature (and therefore color) on they see it. The sky, they had discovered, was "not necessarily blue, or the tree green, or the cow red. They discovered, writes Sheldon Cheney, "that, as seen, the sun inevitably puts yellow in the sky, and that a wood of green trees ordinarily exhibits in its sunlit surfaces almost every color in the spectrum." Thus light, broken into its prismatic elements, became their obsession, as did the capture of a fleeting atmospheric impression. And so Impression, and so Impression, as well on the property of the property

BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

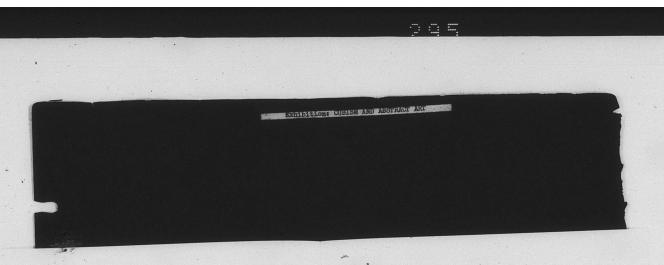


STILL LIFE, BY LE CORBUSIER. 1920. AN EXAMPLE OF PURISM, A FLAT TWO-DIMENSIONAL RELATION OF CUBISM

was taken toward abstract painting. This new use of color naturally produced not only a new type of picture, but also a new analytical approach to painting as a whole. But the Impressions tast had been concerned in susface restanting that it was not only upon the relations between color and line that the art of painting depended. They continued to break up their colors, but in a rather new way, covering their canvases with the tiny dots of pigment that carned for their school the name of pointilitistes, or "dot painters." But, as we have said, line, or form, played an equally important role.

Then, from the Limbo where for many years he had been painting academically, stepped that truly great revolutionary, stepped that truly great revolutionary, and behind pure form lurks the mysteria of the color o

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analysis, of planes into geometrical sequences. In short, Cubism. Cubism, designed to develop another dimension. Cubism, sired by the Frenchman Braque and the Spaniard Picasso, the latter doubtless the most versatile and experimental of contemporary artists. Both these men (and their followers) had been powerfully stirred not only by the works of Cezanne (cerebral and emotional) but by primitive negro sculpture (primitive and emotional). Early cubistic paintings show the form, broken up into geometric cubes and facets, yet quite distinct. Later these cubes and facets begin to merge into each other, to fuse the form into the background. Then comes the interesting experiment of "simultaneity," that is, the simultaneous presentation of different views of an object in the same picture. Gradually the object itself disintegrates into arrangements of circles and rectangles, with vestiges only of eyes or chins remaining. Here we have (since labels may be useful) "synthetic cubism." But it is, writes Mr. Barr, "so abstract as to seem nearer geometry-than representation."

Collage, or the pasting of paper or other materials on the canvas, manifests still another experiment of Braque and Picasso. These super-imposers, or letters, or whole words) were intended not only to contribute to the viriety of forms and surfaces, "but all to what might be called Cubist reflect that the properties of the painted or only to contribute to the viriety of forms and surfaces," but all to what might be called Cubist reflection. Hustain or the represented objects by were intended not only to contribute to the viriety of forms and surfaces, "but all to what might be called Cubist reflection."

Futuation Surface** and the reality of the painted with the represented objects by combining the broken color objects by combining the broken color objects by combining the broken color.

of the Impressionists with the Cubista' technique of disintegration and the principle of 'simultaneity' — the simultaneous presentation of different aspects of the same object in a single work of art. They amounced, for instance, that a running hree has not four but twenty legs and proceeded to paint twenty-legs and proceeded to paint twenty-legs and proceeded to paint twenty-legs discrete and the proceeded to paint twenty-legs and the proceeding the

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ON, BY LEGER. 1921. HERE THE FORMS ARE RECOGNIZABLE BUT THE INTENTION AND EFFECT ARE ABSTRACT

into three dimensional activities, sculpture, theatre design, etc.
Allied to this group yet and wider influence, are the forewers of the Ps Stiff movement, originating in Holiand during the war. They elements formed the fundamental basis of this group, whether in interior typography: in form the representation of the primary has been defined in color the primary has been defined and the architect, J. J. P. Oud were the outstanding leaders of De Stiff but its wide influence was exerted principally through the propagand and theory of its founder, Theo van Doesburg, painter, sculptor, architect, typographer, post, novelist, critic, lecturer, and theorist. In architecture, design and printing the influence of this movement may be said to be world-wide. The various abstract currents alive in Germany after the war, together with influences from Holland and Russia,

were united in the famous Bauhaus, founded by the architect Gropius in 1919. Post-impressionism, or Expressionism as it was known in Germany, had continued to be a strong influence in that during the manner of the strong influence in that during the substantial properties of the strong in the substantial properties of the Expressionists, they turned toward to the Expressionists, they turned toward consciously developed style in architecture and the allied arts which the Dutch movement had already initiated. The Surrealists, appearing on the French horizon in the early 1920's, are not unrelated to the Dadaists. A freudian note is distinctly observable; they attempt to recapture the atmosphere of dreams and are said sometimes to work under conditions not unallied to automatic writing. Consequently their work is more representational than that of the purer abstractionists, yet to the ob-

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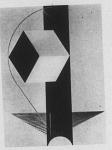
server, for that very reason, more confusing, Naturally, there is some fusion, in varying degrees, of both abstraction and naturalism.

In sculpture we find negro art the starting point of the reaction against the smooth "prettiness" of 19th century concepts. The French Post-Impressionists first became excited over them. The starting point of the pression of expression, the imperiously head the natvee of them. It mis and the natvee of them. It mis peak formalized, so utterly lacking in naturalism—that is to say, in photographic exactness—that Pleases, Braque, Matisse and others of the press or "wide men" group as they were called, reacted to them with the enthusiasm of disciples.

tusse and others of the Fause or "wild
men" group, as they were called, reacted
to them with the enthusiasm of disciples.

Insofar as possible, sculpture has followed the general "isma" of abstract
painting, but eldose analysis to a far
greater extent. Of the contemporary
striking and person the second of the abstract sculptors, Ivan Goll has said
this of him when years of the second of the
abstract sculptors, Ivan Goll has said
this of him when years of the person
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to space and undertakes to mold, as
he would eav, pure atmosphere. He
makes begin and undertakes to mold, as
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makes display the second of the second
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makes display the second of the
makes display the second
that is just what, in his most
which is concave is also convex. Often
the void seems to us as palpable as matter, and this is just what, in his most
the second of the second of a man or the
observation of the second of the second
the second of the second of the more
papee surrounded by plastic shapes acquires in itself a personal form which
gives us the same impression of vitality
as the substance which it replaces."

This has been, of necessity, the briefest summary of some of the more significant elements which compose the
present exhibition — an exhibition
which Alfred H. Barr, Jr, its director,
describes as an historical survey of an



CONSTRUCTION 99, BY LISSITZKY. "THE EXPERIENCE OF NON-OBJECTIVITY"

important movement in modern art.
"It is conceived," he says, "in a retrospective— not a controversial spirit."
If must be clear that it serves no intellectual or aesthetic purpose to seek in these paintings or in this sculpture for representational recognition. Rather, form allied to dynamic forces, and as well on the serves of the desired properties of the serves of the shapes of the serves and the shapes and come of the serves of the shapes and the serves of the shapes of the serves of the shapes and the serves of the shapes of the serves of the shapes of the serves of the shapes made from them, that or solid, by the lather, ruler and square, if you see what I mean These are not beautiful for any particular reason or purpose, as other things are, but are always by their very nature

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WOMAN WALKING, ARCHIPENKO. 1912. "SPACE SURROUNDED BY PLASTIC SHAPE"

beautiful, and give pleasure of their own quite free from the itch of desire; and colors of this kind are beautiful, too, and give a similar pleasure."

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WALLACE NUTTING HERE

WALLACE NUTTING HERE
Wallace Nutting, well known to evweryone for his various interests, will
speak Tuesday evening before members
of the Institute on the subject of Old
American Homes and Their Furnishings.
This is what Mr. Nutting has been longest interested in and everyone may conidentify expect an enjoyable as well as
instructive evening.
This is the fourth of the Tuesday evening programs for members.

ART IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The relation between art and photography must be intimate, judging by the arguments that arise therefrom. The matter bears discussion, especially by an expert such as Dr. Max Thorek, of Chicago, who will speak this Sunday on that tooks.

cago, who will speak this soluted your topic.

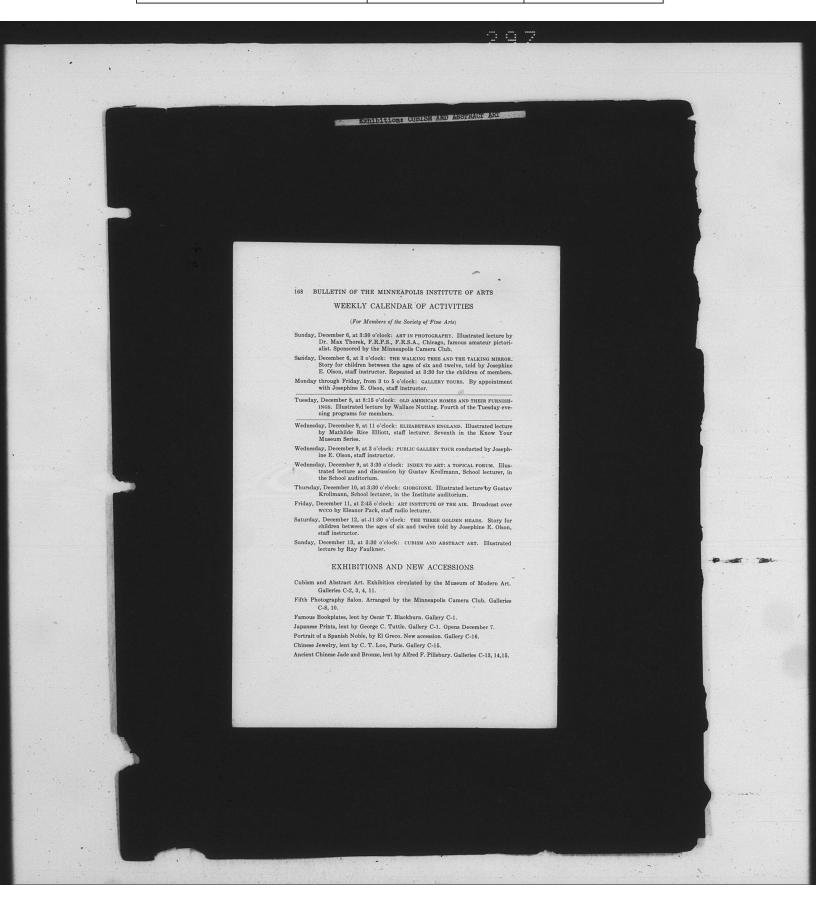
Dr. Thorek is a surgeon who makes photography a hobby and is so successful with his hobby that he placed in 3 alons last year and is an acknowledged leader in pictorial photography.

The Minneapolis Camera Club invited Dr. Thorek to give the lecture and the Institute welcomes him cordially to its platform.

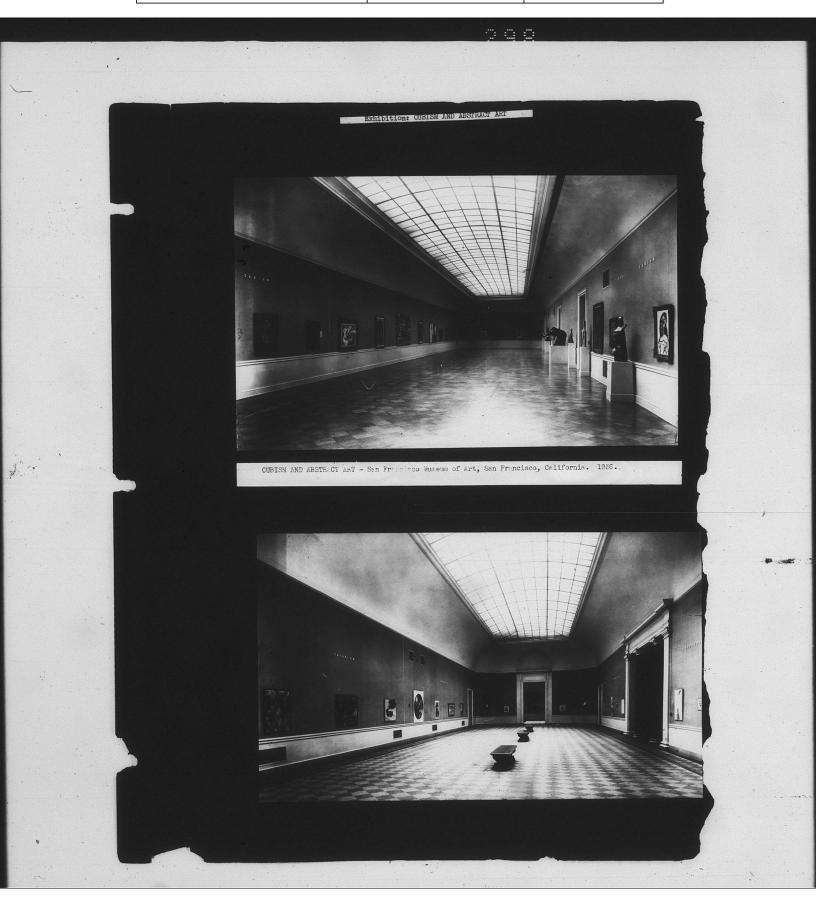
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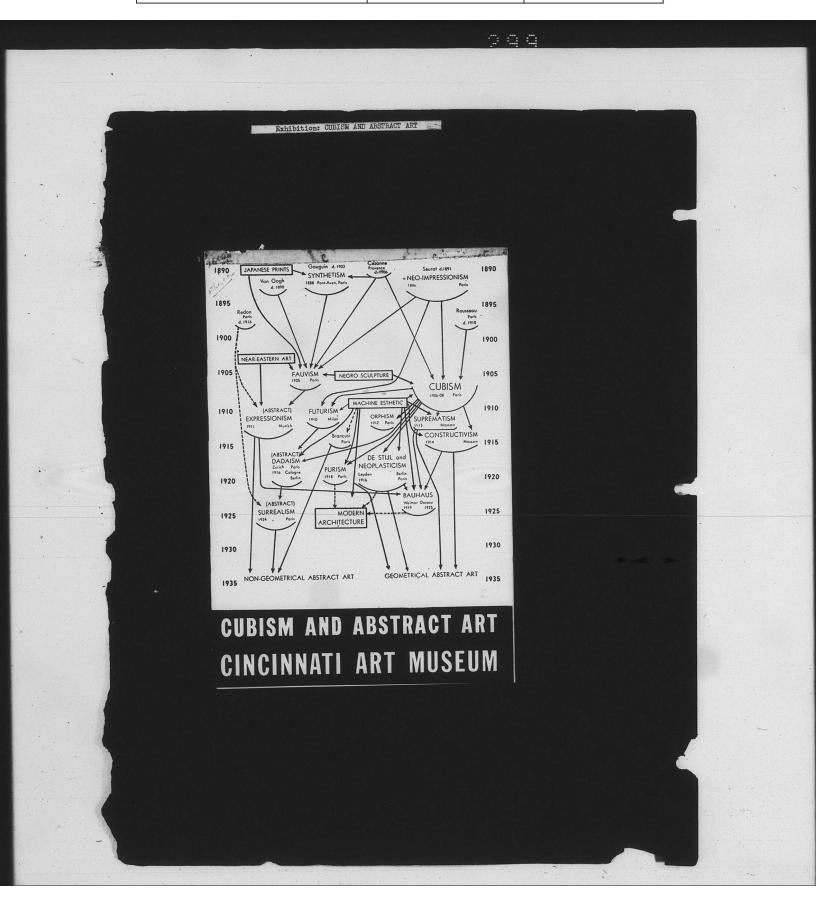
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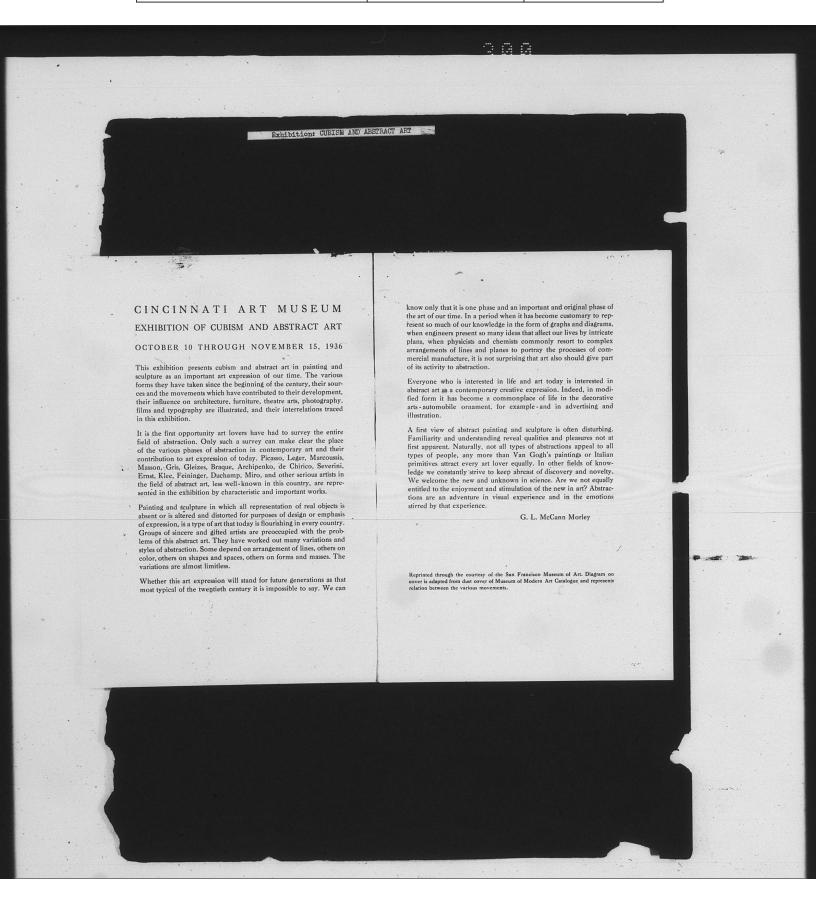
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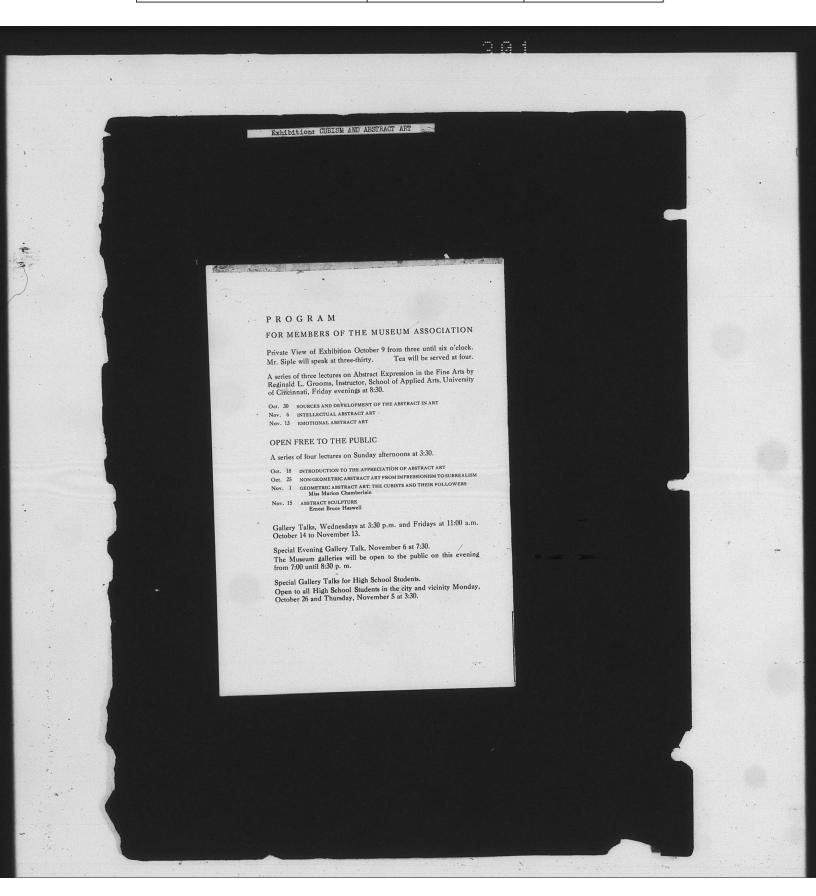
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