

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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SMALL EXHIBITION OF BALLET DRAWINGS BYFRANKLIN C. WATKINS OPENS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

On Wednesday, June 19, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will open a small exhibition of Ballet Drawings by Franklin C. Watkins, prepared by the Department of Dance and Theatre Design. The exhibition, to be shown in the Department's permanent gallery off the auditorium lounge, will consist of thirteen drawings for settings and costumes for the ballet "Transcendence." All of the drawings are from the Museum Collection and were acquired in 1942 through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. The exhibition will close August 25.

The Department will also place on exhibition at the same time a model (approximately 2x2x2-1/2 feet) of a setting made by Eugene Berman for the second act of the opera "Island ~~of~~ God" by Gian-Carlo Menotti in 1942. The set was never executed.

The first performance of "Transcendence," for which the Watkins settings and costumes exhibited were designed, was given by The American Ballet in 1934. Lincoln Kirstein wrote the book; George Antheil arranged and orchestrated the music by Franz Liszt; and the choreography was by George Balanchine.

The drawings included, which are mostly watercolor, wash and ink, are:

- Setting for the Opening Scene
- First and Second Costumes for the Virtuoso
- Costume for the Virtuoso as Priest with Girl
- Costume for the Virtuoso Resurrected
- Costumes for the Girl and the Young Lover
- Costume for the Blind Girl
- Costumes for the Witches
- Costume for Men, 1st Part
- Costume for the Possessed Girl
- Costumes for Men and Women, 2nd Part
- Costumes for Dancers, 2nd Part
- Costume for Women, 2nd Part
- Design for Backdrop

Franklin C. Watkins, who is well known as a painter, was born in New York City in 1895. He now lives in Plymouth Meeting, near Norristown, Pennsylvania. Besides continuing his own painting, he teaches part time at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. The Philadelphia Museum of Art held a retrospective exhibition of his paintings last winter.