The fall season opens at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, Wednesday, September 11, with a major exhibition entitled Fourteen Americans. It is a group of small one-man shows, each of the painters and sculptors represented with from four to twenty works in order to give an indication of individual style and direction. The exhibition, which will remain on view through December 8, is presented by the Department of Painting and Sculpture and has been directed by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of the Department. Miss Miller has also edited the book, containing statements by the artists, which the Museum will publish simultaneously with the opening of the exhibition.

Fourteen Americans includes the following artists:

David Aronson - Boston
Ben L. Culwell - Dallas
Arshile Gorky - New York City
David Hare - New York City
Loren MacIver - New York City
Robert Motherwell - Bridgehampton, N. Y.
Isamu Noguchi - New York City
I. Rice Pereira - New York City
Alton Pickens - New York City
C. S. Price - Portland, Oregon
Theodore J. Roszak - New York City
Honoré Sharrer - New York City
Saul Steinberg - New York City
Mark Tobey - Seattle, Wash.

*George Tooker - New York City, whose work was added during the three-month interval between the time the catalog went to press and the opening of the exhibition.

Fourteen Americans is another in a series of related exhibitions which the Museum has organized to provide a means of studying certain phases of contemporary art in various parts of the United States. Americas 1942 and American Realists and Magic Realists were among these exhibitions. These artists are presented not as a definitive selection of the outstanding talents of 1946, but as a choice limited by necessities of space to only a few of those whose achievement might warrant their inclusion. Emphasis has been placed on recent work, with an occasional backward glance at earlier production.

Although in selecting the artists age was not considered,
youth happens to be in the majority. For the statistically minded:
five of the artists are between the ages of twenty and thirty years,
and two are under twenty-five. Five are in their thirties, two in
their forties, one in his fifties, and one over seventy.

In her Foreword to the catalog Miss Miller writes in part
as follows:

"What concerns these artists is not the problem
of technique as such, or even the popular reaction to new
ways of doing things, but the utterance or revelation which
the technique is to embody. This appears to be so whether
the interest be in the medium itself (Pereira); research
in a universe of imaginative construction where all forms
are possible and meaning is not dependent on the illustration-
image (Gorky, Hare, Motherwell, Noguchi, Roszak); wrestling
with the world of color and shape in terms of religious and
mystical vision (Aronson, Tobey); the simple magic that
evokes the significance of the ordinary (Mavlyer); the
cruelty and the revealing commonplace of city streets
(Pickens, Sharrer); the passion and the suffering of modern
youth in war (Culwell); the lonely road of the solitary
searching his way out of a world of habit-blurred images
(Price); the oddities of everyday italicized with the
razor's edge of humor (Steinberg).

"These artists are concerned with communication
even more than esthetics. In their view art does not
appear as a tower of refuge or isolation, in spite of the
fact that such men as Tobey and Price are in the honorable
tradition of the artist-recluse which with us goes back
at least as far as Ryder and Thoreau. All are concerned
not only to utter the unique and spontaneous experience
of the artist, but to make that experience embody the
moods and intentions of our time. With them art is both
way and goal. The things to be seen along the way have
the power of pointing beyond themselves as warnings of
the condition of man and as symbols of his hope. The
mood is serious, even religious, but it has nothing to do
with preaching. The idiom is American but there is no
hint of regionalism or chauvinistic tendency. On the
contrary, there is a profound consciousness that the
world of art is one world and that it contains the Orient
no less than Europe and the Americas."

After it closes at the Museum Fourteen Americans will be
sent by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions on a
tour of other museums throughout the country.