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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OFFICIALS UNDERTAKE EUROPEAN SURVEY

Mr. John Hay Whitney, Chairman of the Board of the Museum of Modern Art, announced that Mr. James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, sailed today to select works of modern Italian art for an extensive exhibition which the Museum is planning to hold next year. Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections, will follow in two weeks. They will also go to France and England to conduct a survey of the artistic developments there since 1939.

The Italian exhibition has been under consideration by the Museum for several years, according to Mr. Soby. Ever since the war ended in Europe, the Museum has been interested in the revival which has been taking place in the creative arts in Italy. The evidence of vitality, enthusiasm and confidence, despite very bad economic conditions, made for considerable interest in Italian artists.

The exhibition is planned as a further manifestation of American interest in the revival of creative cultural forces in Europe. The traditional interest of the United States in Italy's great heritage has already been evidenced by contributions to the restoration of war-damaged historic monuments and towards the development of markets for arts and crafts. According to Mr. Soby, the Museum feels that it has a responsibility towards the artists of Europe to recognize work done under difficult war and post-war conditions and to establish an understanding relationship with them.

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