

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST BOOK IN ENGLISH ON JAMES ENSOR

PUBLISHED BY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

JAMES ENSOR, by Libby Tannenbaum, the first book in English on this important modern painter, has just been published by the Museum of Modern Art.

This authoritative study (128 pages; 109 plates, 8 in color) explores Ensor's amazing graphic work and his brilliant canvases. At his home in Ostend, Belgium, a determined provincial isolated from Paris and the mainstream of his own generation, Ensor shaped the fantasies of northern gothic and the mannered grotesques of the 17th century into 20th-century expressionism and surrealism. His grim but vivid carnival of masks and skeletons goes back to Breugel and Callot, and looks forward to Klee, Chagall, Nolde and the Belgian Delvaux.

A contemporary of van Gogh, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Seurat, Ensor (1860-1949) did work in the 1880s that anticipated 20th-century developments perhaps more directly than any of the others.

Miss Tannenbaum, Assistant Curator in the Department of Circulating Exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and formerly a member of the staff of the Magazine of Art, has made an exhaustive study of Ensor's work, with research in Belgium as a Fellow of the Belgian American Educational Foundation.

The book is available in cloth at \$4.00; paper bound it is \$2.25. It is being distributed by Simon and Schuster, New York.