

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY

July 7, 1954

PRESS PREVIEW: TUESDAY

July 6, 1954, 2-5 p.m.

No. 69

## SPECIAL SUMMER EXHIBITION OF KLEE PRINTS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A small selective exhibition of thirty prints by Paul Klee (1879-1940) will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from July 7 through September 19 in a special summer exhibition on the third floor. The exhibition, arranged by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints, has been chosen exclusively from the Museum Collection, the largest group of Klee's prints in the United States.

In the exhibition, Klee's graphic work is surveyed from his early etchings in 1903, when his satire was directed against the foibles of maidenhood, monarchy, conceit and pride, through the lithographs which he developed from 1912 until 1927 in black and white and in color, and his late work when his prints became extensions of pictorial ideas which he was pursuing in other media.

Early etchings in the show include Virgin in the Tree, Two Men Meet, Each Believing the Other of Higher Rank, Senile Phoenix and Head of Menace. A trial proof of a 1922 lithograph called In the Spirit of Hoffman is shown along side the final version printed in color from two additional stones. Other color lithographs include Tightrope Walker, The One in Love and postcards for Bauhaus Exhibitions, the famous art school and center where Klee and many other internationally recognized artists, lived and worked in the 1920s. Later etchings include Old Man Figuring, made in 1929, L'Homme approximatif, Why Does He Run? and Never Ending.

Commenting on the works selected for the exhibition, Mr. Lieberman says:

"In Switzerland at the age of 24, Klee decided to devote his major energies to printmaking. In the next two years he completed fourteen etchings of which half are in the present exhibition. In retrospect he considered these 'inventions' as his first independent and successful achievement as an artist. He wrote: 'One must make others laugh even at the image of themselves.'

"In Germany, between 1910 and 1932, Klee continued to make a few prints each year. In 1912 he began lithography and continued to work on stone or transfer paper until 1927. In terms of his development as an artist, Klee's later prints, important though they are, lack the significance of the early group of etchings. When Klee left Germany to return to Switzerland in 1933, he ceased printmaking."

An additional 32 prints by Paul Klee which are owned by the Museum can be seen weekday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room on the 4th floor of the Museum.