

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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NEW TALENT SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS RESUMES AT MUSEUM

A painter from New Mexico, a sculptor from Milwaukee, and a printmaker from Chicago have been selected for the seventh New Talent exhibition presented in the Penthouse of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. The exhibition, totaling 18 works includes six paintings by Tom Benrimo, six groups of woodcuts by Richard O. Tyler, and six wood sculptures by Hugh R. Townley. It will be on view from April 19 through May 22. Beginning April 25 special arrangements have been made to open the Penthouse, usually reserved for Museum members, to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. until the close of the show. A special feature of this series, planned to show little-known work, is that most of the works of art are for sale and are reserved for Museum members.

In the brochure accompanying the exhibition, Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, and who makes the selection for the series, points out that by "new" the Museum means artists who have not received a major one-man showing in New York City and that this does not exclude artists whose work is known in other parts of the country or who are of any particular age. The series was inaugurated five years ago and each usually includes work by three artists.

Tom Benrimo, abstract painter, is largely self taught. He has worked as a stage designer, a magazine illustrator and taught design at Pratt Institute during the thirties. In 1939 he moved to Taos, New Mexico, to devote his full time to painting and since then his work has been included in many national group shows as well as one-man shows in Dallas, San Antonio and at the San Francisco Museum of Art.

The printmaker in the seventh New Talent show, Richard O. Tyler, was included in the Museum of Modern Art's Young American Printmakers exhibition sponsored by the Museum's Junior Council in 1953 and in the same year had a one-man show with the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Art Insititute of Chicago where he had been studying. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, in 1926 and, after serving in the Pacific theater during the war, worked in the Civil Service in Japan. His subjects include many biblical scenes.

Hugh R. Townley was born in Indiana in 1923. He studied at the University of Wisconsin after his war service and worked in Europe from 1948 to 1951. He has been teaching at the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee since 1952 where he now lives. His work has been shown in small galleries in Paris, the Hague, and London and in region-

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153
al shows in the United States and in Chicago.

Since 1950 when the New Talent Series of exhibition began at the Museum, 19 artists have had work included: 65 paintings, 26 sculptures, 14 prints and 5 stained glass panels have been shown. Of these 30 paintings, 14 sculptures and 37 pullings of 13 prints were sold and one stained glass panel. The Museum itself made three purchases for the Collection and the remaining works of art were bought by Museum members. The total value of works of art sold in the first six shows was almost \$10,000. The Museum takes no commission on these sales.

More than half the artists whose work was introduced to the New York public through this series have found New York dealers to handle their work. On the other hand, one of the artists who has experienced the most marked success in sales and awards since being shown here does not yet have a New York gallery where her work can be seen regularly.

Commenting on the success of the program, Mr. Ritchie said: "When we put on the first New Talent show in 1950 we called it the beginning of an experimental series of small, intimately hung exhibitions of the work of new artists of talent. Although the Museum has sponsored new talent both by purchase and by exhibition throughout its 25 year history, the New Talent series was considered a new experiment, with the object of introducing and encouraging new talent, as it appears throughout the country, by bringing it to the attention of our metropolitan membership. We said then that sales are the most concrete symbol of appreciation and that we hoped that many of the artists' works would find a place in members' homes.

"Now reviewing five years of these shows we can say that the experiment has succeeded. Almost half of the paintings and sculptures shown were bought, 37 pullings of the prints and one of five stained glass panels. Many of the artists who have experienced considerable success since being included in a New Talent show have said that they feel that the New York showing aided them considerably in bringing their work to the attention of a wider audience. Also, since the shows were inaugurated, more artists are submitting their work to us and in general the quality of work brought in is somewhat higher. Apparently many artists of considerable merit have felt encouraged to step forward for these small intimate shows who would not have otherwise done so.

"For all these reasons we are very pleased to be able to announce that the series will continue. The project was made possible originally by the generous support of five trustees and it is being continued now by trustee contributions."

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Artists who have been included in the past New Talent exhibitions are:

April, 1950: Seymour Drumlevitch
William D. King
Raymond Parker

November, 1950: Louis Bunce
Ynez Johnston
Ernest Mundt

May, 1951: Henry Di Spirito
Irving Kriesberg
Raymond August Mintz

May, 1952: Philip C. Elliott
Gorman Powers
Walter Rogalski
Carol Summers

November, 1952: Byron Goto
John Hultberg
Louise Kruger

November, 1953: Keith Monroe
Ira Schwartz
Robert Sowers
