

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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No. 38

## ETCHINGS BY MATISSE and PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN

ON VIEW AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Two exhibitions, ETCHINGS BY MATISSE and PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, for four weeks only, from May 4 through May 30. Featuring recent additions to the Museum's collection, not previously shown at the Museum, both exhibitions were selected and installed by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints. After the New York showing, the thirty etchings by Matisse will tour several cities in the United States. The etchings also appear this month in a book of facsimile reproductions with an introduction by Mr. Lieberman.

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ETCHINGS BY MATISSE consists of two constellations of prints, prefaced by a few early drypoints of 1903. Twice, in 1914 and again in 1929, Matisse took up etching with enthusiasm, as if he deliberately sought temporary refreshment from easel painting in the chemistry of another medium. The etchings of 1914 consist mostly of quick and informal portraits of his family and friends -- his wife and children, the wives of the painters Derain, Galanis and Juan Gris, the American painter Walter Pach, the model Loulou. Matisse often etched several portraits of the same sitter.

The second series of etchings (1929) are studies of professional models -- nudes, odalisques, girls gazing at goldfish. Although some of the variations repeat or anticipate motifs in his painting, most often they remain distinct. The most successful of the etchings of 1929 offer bold reductions of a pose or movement into an abbreviated essential of lines.

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PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN, the second exhibition, falls into several categories. The first group consists of nine large Japanese woodcuts recently acquired by the Museum. These woodcuts blend traditional and modern styles, sometimes with mystery, often with humor. Of the six artists represented, Kiyoshi Saito is the best known in the United States. One of the woodcuts, The Arrival of the South Savages by Sumio Kawakami, depicts the coming to Japan of the Portugese in the 16th

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century. Umetaro Azechi, Jomo-o Inagaki, Hide Kawanishi, Fumio Kitaoka are also included.

A gallery in the exhibition is devoted to the expressionist movement in Germany, particularly those artists who banded together around 1905 to form the group known as the Brücke (Bridge). In retrospect, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner emerges as the dominant personality of the Brücke. He is represented by two lithographs and four woodcuts. All the German expressionists regarded print-making as important as painting. The woodcuts of Kirchner, Kollwitz, Heckel, Nolde, Pechstein, Rohlf's (born in 1849) and Schmidt-Rottluff naturally combine strength and decoration. To these are added several lithographs by Dix, Hofer, Kokoschka, Klee and Otto Mueller. The selection of expressionist prints begins in 1904 and ends in 1925. A large color woodcut of 1953, four feet high, by Helmut Grieshaber, is included as an example of a younger artist continuing the expressionist tradition in Germany today. Grieshaber lives and works on the isolated mountain Achalm in the province of Wurtemberg.

Ten prints by two late 19th century precursors of surrealism, James Ensor and Odilon Redon, are followed by a small selection of contemporary European lithographs in color. The work of artists from several countries is shown. Kenneth Armitage and Robert Colquhoun are British; Elenbaas is Dutch; Fabbri and Music are Italian; the Frenchman, Dubuffet, the Italian, Campigli, and the Chinese Zao Wou-ki work in Paris. With the exception of Campigli, all the artists have established their reputations as painters and sculptors since the war. Picasso, more than any other single artist, stimulated the renaissance of lithography in Europe today. He is represented in the exhibition by three large lithographs, done in a single day. They offer three variations of a portrait of Honoré Balzac, whose work Picasso first illustrated in 1927. Picasso's Balzac was obviously inspired by Rodin's great bronze sculpture, a recent gift, on view in the Museum Garden.

A polyptych in six panels, The Herring Catch, by the Norwegian Rolf Nesch, has been recently given to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr. Daring in its scale and boldness, the series of color engravings reveal Nesch as one of the contemporary innovators in intaglio in Europe.

PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN consist of fifty-five recent additions to the Museum Collections. The prints have been acquired through purchase funds and gifts. Donors include Mr. Larry L. Aldrich; Mr. Samuel A. Berger; Mrs. W. Murray Crane; Mr. Peter H. Deitsch; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. E. Powis Jones; Mr. Victor S. Riesenfeld; Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd; Mrs. Donald B. Straus; Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg.

Note: A checklist of prints in both exhibitions will be available at the press preview. Photographs are also available on request from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art.

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## ETCHINGS BY MATISSE

Exhibited May 4 - May 30, 1955

Note: With the exception of the two prints starred (\*), all the etchings are acquisitions by the Museum not previously displayed.

Sketches: Nudes and Children's Heads. c.1903. Drypoint, first state. Purchase Fund

Sketches: Nudes and Children's Heads. c.1903. Drypoint, second state. Purchase Fund

Studies of a Woman in Street Costume. c.1903. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Mme. André Derain. 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund (by exchange)

Matthew Stewart Prichard. 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Portrait of Bourgeat. 1914. Etching. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.

Seated Nude. 1914. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Woman in Kimono (Mme Matisse). 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Demetrius Galanis. 1914. Etching and drypoint. Purchase Fund.

\*Mme Demetrius Galanis. 1914. Etching. Lillie P. Bliss Bequest

\*Head. 1914. Etching. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Walter Pach. 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Double Portrait (Mme Juan Gris). 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Séraphique (Mme Juan Gris). 1914. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Loulou in a Flowered Hat. 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Loulou. 1914. Etching. Purchase Fund

Three Studies of a Nude. 1914? Etching and drypoint. Purchase Fund

Nude Kneeling. 1918. Etching. Purchase Fund

Reclining Nude and Goldfish. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Seated Odalisque. 1929. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Seated Hindu. 1929. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Head, Fingers Touching Lips. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Seated Nude. 1929. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Reclining Nude, Head Down. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Interior with Nude and Goldfish. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Woman, Profile, Beside an Aquarium. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Girl Clasping Her Left Knee. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Reclining Nude. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Woman, Full Face, Beside an Aquarium. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

Reflection. 1929. Drypoint. Purchase Fund

Nude Reclining on Chaise Longue. 1929. Etching. Purchase Fund

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## PRINTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN

Exhibited May 4--May 30, 1955

Note: All prints are acquisitions exhibited for the first time by the Museum.

### Recent Japanese Woodcuts

AZECHI, Umetaro. Born 1902.

Mountain Guide B. 1953. Color woodcut. Gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus.

INAGAKI, Jomo-o.

Pumpkins. Color woodcut. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd.

KAWAKAMI, Sumio. Born 1895.

The Arrival of the South Savages. 1952. Woodcut, colored by hand. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

KAWANISHI, Hide.

Curio Shop. 1941. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

KITAOKA, Fumio. Born 1918.

Harbor. Woodcut. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

City Streets. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

SAITO, Kiyoshi. Born 1907.

Dog. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

Jealousy. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

Naoko. Color woodcut. Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

### Expressionism in Germany

DIX, Otto. Born 1891.

Mediterranean Sailor. 1923. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

HECKEL, Erich. Born 1883.

The Adversaries. 1912. Woodcut. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.

Portrait of A. N. 1919. Woodcut. Purchase Fund.

HOFER, Karl. 1878-1955.

Girl with Plant. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

KIRCHNER, Ernst Ludwig. 1880-1938.

Gerty with Mask and Wineglass. 1904-09. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Street in Dresden. 1908. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Frau Or. R. 1917. Woodcut. Purchase Fund.

Winter Moonlight. 1918. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

White House in the Meadows. 1919. Woodcut. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.

Landscape. Woodcut and collage. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.

Expressionism in Germany (continued)

KLEE, Paul. 1879-1940.

Vulgar Comedy. 1922. Lithograph. Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld.

KOKOSCHKA, Oskar. Born 1886.

Maria Orska. 1922. Lithograph. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.

KOLLWITZ, Käthe. 1867-1945.

Old Man with Moose. 1925. Woodcut. Gift of Edward M. M. Warburg.

MÜLLER, Otto. 1874-1930.

Two Bathers. Color lithograph. Given anonymously.

NOLDE, Emil. Born 1867.

The Three Kings. 1913. Color Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Grotesques. 1913. Color lithograph. Purchase Fund.

The Doctors. 1922. Woodcut. Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

PECHSTEIN, Max. Born 1881.

Comic Song. 1909. Color lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Figures in a Landscape. 1911. Color woodcut. Purchase Fund.

ROHLFS, Christian. 1849-1938.

The Three Kings. 1910. Woodcut. Purchase Fund.

Expulsion from Paradise. 1915-16. Woodcut. Purchase Fund.

SCHMIDT-ROTTLUFF, Karl. Born 1884.

Young Roman. 1906. Lithograph. Given anonymously.

Melancholia. c.1919. Woodcut. Purchase Fund.

Miscellaneous

ARMITAGE, Kenneth. British, born 1916.

Family Going for a Walk. 1951. Color Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

COLQUHOUN, Robert. British, born 1914.

Sleeping Jester. 1953. Color Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

DUBUFFET, Jean. French, born 1901.

Man with Fern. 1953. Color lithograph. Larry L. Aldrich Fund.

ELENBAAS, Valdemar. Dutch, born 1912.

Coming Danger. 1952. Color lithograph. Purchase Fund.

ENSOR, James. Belgian, 1860-1949.

Devil's Sabbath. 1887. Etching. Purchase Fund.

Devils Defeating the Angels and Archangels. 1888. Etching. Purchase Fund.

Curious Figures. 1888. Etching and drypoint. Purchase Fund.

Curious Insects (the artist and Mme Ernest Rousseau). 1888. Drypoint. Purchase Fund.



Miscellaneous (continued)

ENSOR (continued)

Demons Tormenting Me. 1895. Etching. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.

Demons Tormenting Me. 1895. Etching and watercolor. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.

FABBRI, Agenore. Italian, born 1911.

Two Cats. 1950. Color lithograph. Larry L. Aldrich Fund.

GRIESHABER, Helmut. German, born 1909.

Elysium. 1953. Color woodcut. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Powis Jones.

MUSIC, Antonio. Italian, born 1909. . 1953. . . . .

Horses. 1953. Color lithograph. Larry L. Aldrich Fund.

NESCH, Rolf. Norwegian, born Germany 1893.

The Herring Catch. 1938. Polyptych (6 color engravings). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr.

PICASSO, Pablo. Spanish, born 1881; lives in France.

Head of Balzac I. 1952. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Head of Balzac II. 1952. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Head of Balzac III. 1952. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

REDON, Odilon. French, 1840-1916.

Egg. 1885. Lithograph. Gift of Peter H. Deitsch.

Is there not an invisible world... 1887. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Then there appeared a singular being..the head of a man and the body of a fish. 1888. Lithograph. Purchase Fund.

Light. 1893. Lithograph. Gift of Victor S. Riesenfeld.

ZAO WOU-KI. Chinese, born 1920; lives in France.

Bouquet of Flowers. 1953. Color lithograph. Larry L. Aldrich Fund.

CAMPIGLI, Massimo. Italian, born 1895.

Waiting. 1953. Color lithograph. Gift of Samuel A. Berger.