

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE

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Giorgio de Chirico, by James Thrall Soby. 268 pages. 195 plates (10 in color). \$7.50. Published by the Museum of Modern Art. Distributed by Simon & Schuster.

Giorgio de Chirico by James Thrall Soby will be published by the Museum of Modern Art on September 8. This profusely illustrated monograph on the controversial Italian artist who has repudiated his own brilliant youth after founding one of the most significant movements of 20th Century Italian art and profoundly influencing the European surrealists, includes an extensive analysis of his early works from 1913 through 1919, and his return to tradition and quarrel with the surrealists in the 20's. Enlargements of macrophotographic details of versions of his famous paintings dated variously from 1917 to the 20's are shown to illustrate changes in his technique.

De Chirico's parents and childhood, the Germanic influences including the Swiss artist Böcklin and the German philosopher, Nietzsche, his important friendship with Guillaume Apollinaire, his association with the painter, Carrà and his founding of the metaphysical school, and his great influence on the artists who were to become the leaders of the surrealist group, such as Ernst and Magritte, are described and illustrated with quotations from their writings and photographs of paintings. Also included are translations of manuscripts written by de Chirico during his first Paris period, 1911-15, and a selected bibliography.

De Chirico's iconography of trains, cannons, towers, statues and toys is discussed at length along with the plastic values of his paintings, their organization, color value and technique. The relation of de Chirico's paintings to other works being done at the same time is also made clear.

The chronology of de Chirico's paintings is in considerable dispute as many pictures have been copied, some by the artist himself, many forged and many incorrectly dated. However, Mr. Soby, after extensive research in Italy, France and Germany has been able to establish a chronology of important works. A unique series of photographs of paintings by de Chirico painted in 1909 and long since lost or repainted, is also included.

Giorgio de Chirico is a completely revised version of an earlier work by Mr. Soby, "The Early Chirico," published in 1941. Its publication coincides with an exhibition consisting of 20 outstanding canvases at the Museum of Modern Art, Sept. 8 through Oct. 30, from the artist's most brilliant and influential period.

Review copies and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York 19, New York.