The most important Picasso exhibition presented in this country since 1939 will open at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on May 22, 1957 under the direction of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections and Picasso scholar. The exhibition will include the majority of Picasso's greatest paintings with special emphasis on work completed since the Guernica mural of 1937.

Other sections of the exhibition will be devoted to a comprehensive showing of Picasso's sculpture, which is comparatively little known in this country, and to ceramics. Drawings and prints will comprise the balance of the show and will be under the charge of William S. Lieberman, the Museum's Curator of Prints. The Picasso exhibition will occupy all the Museum's exhibition galleries except the second floor, where American and European paintings from the Museum Collection will remain on view.

The exhibition will be shown at the Museum throughout the summer of 1957. Later, it will be shown at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Mr. Barr left for Europe on May 14 to complete arrangements for the exhibition which will include many loans from abroad as well as from private and public collections in this country.