

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE:

October 3, 1956

No. 85

MASTERS OF BRITISH PAINTING 1800-1950, by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie. 160 pages, 104 plates, 16 in color. To be published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York on October 3, 1956 and distributed by Simon & Schuster. Price: \$5.50

MASTERS OF BRITISH PAINTING 1800-1950 by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie will be published by the Museum of Modern Art on October 3 to accompany a major exhibition of the same title which will be on view at the Museum from October 3 through December 2 before traveling across the country.

In this profusely illustrated book (16 of the 104 plates are in color) Mr. Ritchie traces British art from the revolution in landscape painting led by Constable and Turner at the beginning of the 19th century to the diverse developments of the past two decades, when, Mr. Ritchie says, Britain's "leading artists came of age and once more joined the company of Constable and Turner on an international rather than an insular stage."

His study takes the reader through the Pre-Raphaelite movement of the mid-19th century led by Millais, Hunt and D. G. Rossetti through Whistler's cosmopolitan attack during the second half of the 19th century and the formation of the New English Art Club and the Glasgow School which was to be followed by Sickert's "astringent impressionism" and the Camden Town Group. The short-lived Vorticist movement of the early 20th century is touched on and the surrealism that influenced English neo-romantic painting in the 1930's is seen in work by Sutherland and Nash while other styles, ranging from Nicholson's abstract paintings to Francis Bacon's highly personal, shocking imagery are also discussed and illustrated.

Mr. Ritchie tells this story by showing and discussing the work of 31 artists. A separate chapter, illustrated by several examples of his work, is devoted to each painter. An introductory essay ties these strands together. The book also contains a complete catalog listing of the exhibition MASTERS OF BRITISH PAINTING and a bibliography. The exhibition is being presented in this country by the Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with the City Art Museum of St. Louis, where it will be on view from January 10 through March 2, 1957 and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, where it will be on view from March 28 through May 12, 1957. The exhibition and the book were made possible through the cooperation of the British Council.

Mr. Ritchie, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture of the Museum of Modern Art, is the author of well-known works on British painting, including "English Painters: Hogarth to Constable" and the exhibition catalog "British

more.....

Contemporary Painters." He has also written "Sculpture of the Twentieth Century," "Abstract Painting and Sculpture in America" and monographs on Demuth, Watkins, Burchfield, Maillol, Vuillard and Gonzalez.

Review copies and photographs are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.