MASTERS OF BRITISH PAINTING  1800-1950
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Monday-October 1, 1956  
No. 91

SPECIAL PREVIEW OF MASTERS OF BRITISH PAINTING 1800-1950  
FOR CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 
AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Sir Roger Makins, British Ambassador to the United States, will open an exhibition 
called Masters of British Painting 1800-1950 at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 
Street, on Monday evening at 9:30. The special preview, being held for the Museum’s 
Contributing Members will also be attended by distinguished guests from this country, 
Europe and Canada. The exhibition will open to the public on Wednesday, following 
the regular Museum Members’ opening on Tuesday evening.

Masters of British Painting consists of 119 paintings ranging from famous 
landscapes by Turner and Constable to recent work by such well-known artists as 
Graham Sutherland and Francis Bacon. It was selected and installed by Andrew Carn-
duff Ritchie, Director of the Museum’s Department of Painting and Sculpture.

Sir Roger, who will be making one of his last official appearances, will be 
introduced to the visitors by William A. M. Burden, President of the Museum. Among 
the 350 guests will be Sir John Rothenstein, Director of the Tate Gallery, London; 
Dr. R. H. Hubbard, Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Canada; Mr. Thomas Howe, 
Director of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco; and 
Mrs. Lilian Somerville, Director of the Fine Arts Department of the British Council 
which assisted in shipping the paintings from England.

Sir Francis Rundall, Consul General of Great Britain, and Lady Rundall, 
Hon. T. P. Davin, Consul General of New Zealand, Hon. Josiah Francis, Consul General 
of Australia, H. E. Dr. E. Ronald Walker, Ambassador and Permanent representative 
to the United Nations from Australia; and H. E. Dr. R. A. MacKay, Ambassador and 
Permanent representative from Canada to the United Nations, are among the govern-
ment officials who are expected to attend.

The exhibition will remain on view at the Museum through December 2. It 
will then be shown in St. Louis at the City Art Museum and in San Francisco at 
the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

If you are interested in assigning a photographer, please call Elizabeth Shaw, 
Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, Circle 5-8900 before 5:30.