

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE

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THE NEW AMERICAN PAINTING AND JACKSON POLLOCK: 1912 - 1956 OPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY AT KUNSTHALLE IN BASEL, APRIL 19

Two large exhibitions of paintings by American artists will open at the Kunsthalle in Basel, Switzerland, Saturday, April 19 under the auspices of the International Council at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. "The New American Painting," the first comprehensive exhibition of advanced trends in American art to be shown abroad, is starting a year-long tour of European centers and is being shown at Basel concurrently with a one-man show of paintings by the late Jackson Pollock, which had its first European showing in Rome last month and will continue to tour until November.

"The New American Painting," presented in Basel at the invitation of Dr. Arnold Rüdlinger, Curator of the Kunsthalle, was selected by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Collections at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Miss Miller has flown to Basel to supervise the installation and to be present at the opening.

According to word received here from Switzerland opening ceremonies on April 19 will include greetings by Dr. Hans Theler, President, Basel Kunstverein, and address by the American Consul, Mr. Elias McQuaid and a lecture on both exhibitions by Dr. Rüdlinger.

"The New American Painting," organized by the International Program of The Museum of Modern Art under the direction of Porter A. McCray consists of more than 80 works. Artists represented are: William Baziotes, James Brooks, Sam Francis, Arshile Gorky, Adolph Gottlieb, Philip Guston, Grace Hartigan, Frank Kline, Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Theodoros Stamos, Clyfford Still, Bradley Walker Tomlin and Jack Tworkov. The four to six canvases by each artist range in date from 1945 to 1958 and present major examples of each artist's distinctive style as well as a survey of the movement generally known as "abstract expressionism" or "action painting." The paintings have been lent by 31 private collectors, five galleries and three museums.

"Jackson Pollock: 1912 - 1956," consisting of 31 paintings and 29 water-colors and drawings, is the largest selection of this influential artist's work ever shown in Europe. Ranging from a number of early drawings being exhibited for the first time in Europe to the colossal paintings dating from 1949 to 1953 executed in the controversial "drip" method that Pollock originated, the exhibition concludes

with several works of his last years in which he returned to a more conventional use of brush and pigment. Selected by Frank O'Hara of the International Program staff, it includes works lent by 3 museums and 16 private collectors.

An illustrated catalog for "The New American Painting" has been issued by the Kunsthalle in Basel based on material prepared by the Museum of Modern Art, including a preface by Porter A. McCray, Director of the International Program, an introduction by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, statements by or about each of the 17 artists, brief biographies and a catalog-listing.

During the Basel showing a 16 m.m. color film in which Pollock demonstrates and explains his methods of painting will be shown. Made available by the International Council at The Museum of Modern Art, the film, in the form of an intimate interview with the artist, was made in 1950-51 by Hans Namuth and Paul Falkenberg.

For the Pollock exhibition, an illustrated catalog based on material provided by the International Program of the Museum of Modern Art is being issued jointly by the Kunsthalle in Basel and the Kunsthalle in Hamburg where the exhibition will be shown in July and August. This includes, in addition to a preface by Dr. Rüdinger, a statement by the artist, a foreword by Mr. McCray, and an essay on Pollock's style and his significance for contemporary art by Sam Hunter, Associate Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture.

The International Council at The Museum of Modern Art, which is sponsoring both exhibitions, is composed of art patrons and community leaders from various parts of the United States. Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1956 to encourage the international exchange in the visual arts, it assumed sponsorship of The International Program last July. Mr. August Heckscher is Chairman of the Board and Mrs. Bliss Parkinson is the Council's President.

Itineraries for both shows are:

The New American Painting

April 19-May 19, Kunsthalle, Basel,
Switzerland
June 1-29, Galleria d'Arte Moderna,
Villa Reale, Milan, Italy
July 18-August 15, Museo de Arte Moderna,
Madrid, Spain
September 1-29, Hochschule für Bildende
Künste, Berlin, Germany
October 13-November 10 (being negotiated)
December 1-29, Palais des Beaux Arts,
Brussels, Belgium
January 12 - February 9, 1959, Musée Na-
tional d'Art Moderne,
Paris, France
February 23-March 23, The Tate Gallery,
London, England

Jackson Pollock: 1912-1956

April 19-May 19, Kunsthalle, Basel,
Switzerland
June 7-July 7, Stedelijk Museum, Amster-
dam, Netherlands
July 19-August 21, Kunsthalle, Hamburg,
Germany
September 4-30, (being negotiated)
October 25-November 25, Whitechapel Art
Gallery, London, England

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, ---
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