

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No. 50

La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat's famous painting which is estimated to be worth a million dollars, will leave the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday morning, May 14, accompanied by armed escort for its final trip home to Chicago. Custodians will begin packing the huge 6 3/4 x 10 feet canvas in a specially constructed padded traveling crate at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning under the supervision of Museum and Chicago Art Institute staff members. At 11 a.m. the painting will be placed in an insulated van and, accompanied by a police escort, will be taken to the Railway Express Agency West Side Terminal at 403 Ninth Avenue (33rd Street.)

There the 700 pound crate will be loaded on a 70 foot long end-door railway car in which it will be shored and braced. An armed guard will remain in the car for the duration of the trip.

The frame for the painting will be packed in a separate crate and taken by Railway Express truck to the terminal at the same time the painting is moved.

Under the terms of the original bequest of the picture to the Chicago Art Institute in the 1920's the famous masterpiece can be lent only once to another institution. La Grande Jatte was one of more than 150 works by the French artist, Seurat, which escaped damage in the fire at the Museum on April 15. The exhibition, organized by the Chicago Art Institute, opened at the Museum in New York on March 26. It was re-installed following the fire, on May 1. More than 62,000 people saw the show before the fire, and over 25,000 came to see it after it was put on exhibition again.

Note to Photo Assignment Editors: -----

The schedule for La Grande Jatte's trip is as follows:

Wednesday, May 14. 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.--Canvas will be packed in special case on the Main Lobby of the Museum.

Wednesday, May 14. 11 a.m.--Painting will be placed in insulated van on 53rd Street. At same time, frame, also in its case, will be placed in Railway Express Van.

Wednesday, May 14. 11:30 a.m. (approximately)--Both trucks will arrive at Railway Express Agency West Side Terminal (33 Street and Tenth Ave. Both crates will be placed in "Scenery Car".

Later on Wednesday car leaves freight terminal, joins passenger train No. 43 at Harmon, New York.

Saturday, May 17. 2:55 a.m. Arrives in Chicago. La Salle Street station

For additional information please call Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900.