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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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THE NEW AMERICAN PAINTING" Introduction by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., foreword by René d'Harnoncourt. 96 pages' 71 black and white photographs, 16 color plates. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc. \$ 2.95

"The New American Painting," an illustrated book published June 1 in connection with the Museum of Modern Art's major summer exhibition, provides an introduction to abstract expressionism, the controversial art movement which began in wartime New York some 15 years ago and has dominated painting in this country during the past decade.

Fifty-one reproductions of paintings by 17 outstanding artists are included in the book along with a personal statement and a brief biography for each.

In an introductory essay Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, comments on the striking variety among these paintings and the fact that the artists themselves are uncompromising individualists. Furthermore, he says, "despite the high degree of abstraction, the painters insist that they are deeply involved with subject matter or content. The content, however, is never explicit or obvious even when recognizable forms emerge.... Rarely do any conscious associations explain the emotions of fear, gaiety, anger, violence or tranquility which these paintings transmit or suggest.

"In short, these painters, as a matter of principle, do nothing deliberately in their work to make 'communication' easy. Yet in spite of their intransigence, their following increases, largely because the paintings themselves have a sensuous emotional esthetic and at times mystical power which works and can be overwhelming."

The artists, are: William Baziotes, James Brooks, Sam Francis, Arshile Gorky, Adolph Gottlieb, Philip Guston, Grace Hartigan, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Theodoros Stamos, Clyfford Still, Bradley Walker Tomlin, and Jack Tworkov.

Part of the book was originally published abroad in several languages as a catalog for an exhibition organized by the Museum's International Program. The show travelled throughout Europe during 1958-'59 under the auspices of the International Council at the Museum of Modern Art, a group of art patrons from various parts of the United States. The new edition, published for this country, contains excerpts from the European press comments on the exhibition when it was shown in Basle, Milan, Madrid, Berlin, Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, and London. The comments, mostly favorable, include unsigned newspaper reports as well as paragraphs from reviews by well-known art critics.

The exhibition was selected by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Collections of the Museum. It opened May 28 and will be on view at the Museum through September 8. It was organized for the European tour by the International Program of the Museum, directed by Porter A. McCray.

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