

October 14, 1959

Mr. Henry J. Seldis, Art Critic
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Seldis:

I am enclosing a local angle release on New Images of Man. Our review copy of the book will be mailed to you shortly.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Shaw
Publicity Director

ES:rn
enc.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

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11 WEST 89th STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 8-8900
CABLE: MODERNART, NEW YORK

For Immediate Release
Thursday,
October 15, 1959

SPECIAL FOR LOS ANGELES PAPERS:

A painter from Los Angeles, a former graduate student at U.C.L.A., and two San Francisco painters are represented in New Images of Man, the current exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art which has been called "The most harrowing and at the same time most hopeful art exhibition New York has seen in years." (Herald Tribune art critic - Billy Gussner)

Richard Diebenkorn of Berkeley and Nathan Oliveira of San Francisco are each represented by four recent oils; Rico Lebrun of Los Angeles, by three large paintings including two of death and destruction from the concentration camp series. The youngest painter in the exhibition is the former U.C.L.A. student James McGarrell, whose three paintings are loaned by California collectors, Sterling Holloway of Encino, Wright Lindington of Santa Barbara and the Frank Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills. A bronze head by the Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti has been lent by the Los Angeles collectors Mr. and Mrs. Sidney F. Brody.

The exhibition, which consists of more than 100 recent works by 23 American and European artists, is directed by Peter Sals, Curator of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and formerly chairman of the art department and director of the gallery at Pomona College in Claremont, California. He has edited a major catalog which accompanies the show.

Mr. Sals says Lebrun's work is characterized by moral outrage and passion and more than any other artist in the show should be seen in the light of Western tradition. Of Diebenkorn's painting he says "The faces, generally, are barely indicated, but his

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large personages, awkward and isolated in an ambiguous but always empty space of muted interiors or brilliant landscapes, testify to their insular presence."

Commenting on Oliveira's work, he says "Oliveira's faceless figures seem as empty as the blank space against which they are silhouetted. These personages travel through space which itself lacks both definition and limitation, and they appear as though they might vanish again in a moment. They are not so much the ghosts of humans as they are merely shapes, rapid, volatile emergencies brought by the whim of the artist's brush, and bearing a deeper affinity to the soft void of his background than to the world of the viewer whose stance or shape they may casually assume."

Mr. Sals calls McGarrell's world "an eccentric and irrational one. There is an uncanny, almost hallucinatory quality to his paintings....McGarrell's dream world, in which logic has no place and our associations betray us, has its own mystery and takes 'us back to de Chirico's silent Uncertainties of the Poet."

The exhibition will be on view in New York until November 29 and will be shown later in Baltimore.

For further information contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI 5-8900

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 83rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 8-8990
CABLES: MODERNART; NEW YORK

For Immediate Release
Thursday,
October 15, 1959

SPECIAL FOR SAN FRANCISCO PAPERS:

Two painters from San Francisco, one from Los Angeles and a former graduate student at U.C.L.A. are represented in New Images of Man, the current exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art which has been called "The most harrowing and at the same time most hopeful art exhibition New York has seen in years." (Herald Tribune art critic - Billy Gussner)

Richard Diebenkorn of Berkeley and Nathan Oliveira of San Francisco are each represented by four recent oils; Rico Lebrun of Los Angeles, by three large paintings including two of death and destruction from the concentration camp series. The youngest painter in the exhibition is the former U.C.L.A. student James McGarrell, whose three paintings are loaned by California collectors, Sterling Holloway of Encino, Wright Livingston of Santa Barbara and the Frank Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills. A bronze head by the Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti has been lent by the Los Angeles collectors Mr. and Mrs. Sidney P. Brody.

The exhibition, which consists of more than 100 recent works by 25 American and European artists, is directed by Peter Sals, Curator of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and formerly Chairman of the art department and director of the gallery at Pomona College in Claremont, California. He has edited a major catalog which accompanies the show.

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