

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND GERMANY

The Museum of Modern Art, which has just announced a campaign to raise 25 million dollars for additional building and program funds, has played an important role in worldwide cultural exchange since its founding in 1929. This activity has been increased in recent years with the establishment of the International Program, a special department in the Museum devoted to cultural exchange. The importance of this activity to men and women all over America is attested by the fact that the Museum's Program is now under the auspices of an International Council composed of community leaders and art patrons from many parts of the country.

German art is widely represented in the collections of the Museum. One of the earliest acquisitions is the famous Kneeling Woman, by Wilhelm Lehmbruck. Among other sculptors included are: Barlach and Kolbe. Among the painters represented are: Dix, Ernst, Hartung, Klee, Kokoschka, Kolbe, Nay, Pachstein, Werner, Winter and Wols.

The Museum has held two large exhibitions devoted exclusively to German painting and sculpture. The first of these was presented in 1931, only two years after the Museum's founding. In 1957 a retrospective, German Art of the Twentieth Century, was shown. Many important loans of painting, sculpture and graphic works were lent from German institutions and private collectors for this comprehensive exhibition. A cycle of German films was also arranged for showing in the Museum's auditorium during the course of this exhibition. The book German Art of the Twentieth Century, edited by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, was published concurrently with the exhibition. Several years earlier in an exhibition entitled The New Decade, featuring twenty-two European artists who had come into prominence since the war, Germany was represented by one sculptor and 2 painters.

Many one-man exhibitions at the Museum have honored outstanding German artists. One of the earliest of these was devoted to Wilhelm Lehmbruck and during the 1940's the work of Oskar Kokoschka, George Grosz, and Paul Klee, as well as of the American-born Lionel Feininger who spent so many of his mature years in Germany, were shown.

Art movements originating in Germany or in which German artists have played a prominent role have also frequently been presented at the Museum. One of the most important was the major retrospective of the work of the Bauhaus, held in 1939. Ernst, Kandinsky, Klee and Moholy-Nagy were included in the exhibition Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism shown in 1941.

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Major shows prepared for circulation in Germany by the International Program have included The New American Painting and Jackson Pollock: 1912-1956. The former, devoted to a survey of the most avant-garde trends in art in the United States was shown in Berlin with Jackson Pollock in 1958. Jackson Pollock was also seen in Hamburg the same year. Other important exhibitions shown in Germany were Modern Art in the United States: Selections from the Collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, seen in Frankfurt in 1955 and Twelve Modern American Painters and Sculptors, in Düsseldorf in 1953. A smaller exhibition prepared for circulation in Germany was the U.S. Representation in Internationale Graphik.

The Family of Man, the great photographic exhibition created by Edward Steichen and first shown at The Museum of Modern Art, has been seen in both Berlin and Munich, under the auspices of the American Embassy.

Among Museum publications translated into German is Masters of Modern Art, edited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Prints by Nolde and Kirchner, and Max Beckman are among the numerous exhibitions of German art circulated throughout the United States and Canada.

The print, photography, film and design collections all contain work by German artists.

The Film Library has shown a wider choice of German films made between 1919 and the present in New York and has circulated these to schools, colleges, film societies throughout the United States.

A detailed list of activities is available upon request.

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