

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND THE NETHERLANDS

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.

The Museum of Modern Art has helped to make the work of a number of outstanding artists of The Netherlands known to the American public by acquiring examples for its collections, or including them in its exhibitions and catalogs. Vincent van Gogh was one of the four artists (the others being Cezanne, Gauguin and Seurat) presented in the Museum's inaugural exhibition in 1929. A comprehensive one-man exhibition of his work was shown in 1936, and an exhibition of Piet Mondrian in 1945. The Museum's collection includes important paintings, watercolors, drawings and prints by these artists, among them van Gogh's Starry Night and Hospital Corridor at St. Rémy, both executed within the last year of his life, and Mondrian's Broadway Boogie-Woogie (1942-1943), the last painting completed by the artist. Karel Appel is one of the European artists included in the exhibition New Images of Man, and his Child with Birds is a recent acquisition. Among the other Dutch artists represented in the collection by paintings or prints are van Doesburg, van Dongen, van de Velde and Elenbaas.

Artists of The Netherlands have been included in a number of exhibitions held at The Museum of Modern Art, such as Cubism and Abstract Art; Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism, and others. J.J.P. Oud was one of the nine architects featured in the Modern Architecture exhibition of 1932 which was the first to present the achievements of modern international architecture. The work of the influential De Stijl group was shown in a special exhibition in the winter of 1952-1953. The Museum's Department of Architecture and Design includes a number of examples by members of this group, such as furniture by Rietveld, graphic work, and so forth. It also contains some specimens of Leerdam glass, posters and other work of Dutch typographic designers.

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Exhibitions of Dutch art has been circulated throughout the United States and Canada. These include such exhibitions as the paintings, watercolors and drawings of van Gogh, an exhibition of poster designs, and an exhibition of de Stijl.

Modern Art in the United States: Selections from the Collections of The Museum of Modern Art was shown at The Hague in 1956. This exhibition, assembled by the International Program of the Museum included paintings, sculpture, prints and architecture demonstrating the major trends of art in the twentieth century.

In 1958, an exhibition of seventeen painters who comprise the central core of abstract expressionism, The New American Painting, was shown in Amsterdam during its tour of eight European countries. Earlier in that year an exhibition of the work of Jackson Pollock was seen in Amsterdam under the auspices of the International Council. The Family of Man, the famous photographic exhibition created by Captain Edward Steichen, was also shown in Amsterdam in 1956.

A major exhibition of French Drawings from American Collections: Clouet to Matisse was shown at the Museum Boymans-van Beuningen in Rotterdam in 1958. This exhibition was intended to demonstrate appreciation of that museum's generosity in lending so extensively to exhibitions in America and as evidence of the connoisseurship of American collectors.

A large selection of the best American publications in the art field were presented to the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague in 1956. The Museum's list of publications acknowledges the contribution of Dutch art in books such as De Stijl and Vincent van Gogh, both by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., and Mondrian by J.J. Sweeney.

A detailed list of activities is available upon request.

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