

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Exhibition: December 2, 1959 - January 31, 1960

### CHECKLIST

With notes by Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Note: Unless enclosed in parentheses dates appear on the works themselves. The last two figures of the accession number indicate the year of acquisition.

Franco ASSETTO. Italian, born 1911. Lives in Turin.

Dark Seal. (1958) Oil, partly in low relief, on canvas, 35 1/2 x 39 3/8".  
G. David Thompson Fund. 1.59.

Note: Bought from the Pittsburgh International, 1959.

AUSTRALIAN. Unknown contemporary aboriginal artist from Groote Eylandt.

Two Snakes. (c.1955) Colored clays over charcoal on eucalyptus bark, 22 x 36 3/8". Purchase. 290.58

Milton AVERY. American, born 1893. Lives in New York.

Sea Grasses and Blue Sea. 1958. Oil on canvas, 60 1/8 x 72 3/8". Gift of Friends of the artist. 649.59

Roger BISSIERE. French, born 1888. Lives in Paris.

Red Bird on Black. 1953. Oil on canvas, 39 3/4 x 19 1/4". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Werner E. Josten.

Umberto BOCCIONI. Italian, 1882-1916. Leader of the Italian Futurist artists, 1910-1916. Worked in Milan.

The Laugh. (1911) Oil on canvas, 43 3/8 x 57 1/4". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Rothschild. 656.59.

"And can we remain insensitive to the frenzied activities of great capital cities, the new psychology of night life, to the hectic figures of the viveur, the cocotte, the apache and the alcoholic?"---Manifesto of the Futurist Painters, Milan, 11 February, 1910.

"Everything is moving, everything is running, everything is whirling. A figure never stands passively before us, but appears and disappears constantly....

"Movement and light destroy the substance of objects....

"...Painters have always shown us figures and objects arranged in front of us. We are going to put the spectator at the center of the picture." ---Technical Manifesto of Futurist Painting, Milan, 1911.

One of the most famous early paintings by the leading Futurist artist, Boccioni's Laugh was first shown in Milan in 1911. There it was slashed by an outraged "spectator" but repainted by Boccioni in time for the famous Futurist Exhibition shown first in Paris, February 1912, and thereafter in London, Berlin (where it was sold), Brussels, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, Zurich and six other cities.

Seiji CHOKAI. Japanese, born 1902. Lives in Tokyo.

Gourds. (1950) Oil on canvas, 25 5/8 x 21". Purchase. 110.58

Renato CRISTIANO. Italian, born 1927. Lives in Rome.

Reason and Instinct - Sun and Moon. (1959) Oil on canvas, 36 3/8 x 32 7/8".  
Purchase. 667.59

Nassos DAPHNIS. American, born Greece 1914. Lives in New York.

Number 5-58. 1958. Plastic paint on canvas, 64 1/8 x 43". Purchase. 4.59

Dorothy DEHNER. American, born 1908. Lives in New York.

Decision at Knossos. (1957) Bronze, 3 1/8" high x 3" wide x 4 7/8" deep.  
Purchase. 5.59.

Robert DELAUNAY. French, 1885-1941.

Disks. (1930-33) Oil on cardboard, 23 5/8 x 23 1/2". Gift of Judge and  
Mrs. Henry Epstein. 256.57.

Note: Sun Disks, 1912-13, the most famous and one of the earliest of  
Delaunay's disk compositions hangs on the second floor stair landing.

Maurice DENIS. French, 1870-1943.

The Pitcher. (c.1895-1900?) Oil and sand on paper lined with canvas,  
17 3/4 x 9 1/2". Gift of A. H. Adler and Norman Hirschl. 282.58

Note: Denis studied and championed Gauguin's ideas about 1890 and later,  
with Vuillard and Bonnard, helped form the Nabi group. He was one of  
the best French art critics of his generation. The Pitcher seems to  
anticipate Braque's cubist textures and the clear, flat silhouettes of  
the pitchers and jugs in Ozenfant's "Purist" still lifes of 1920.

Burgoyne DILLER. American, born 1906. Lives in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey.  
Diller was a founding member of the American Abstract Artists, 1936.

Construction. 1938. Painted wood construction, 14 5/8 x 12 1/2 x 2 5/8".  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand P. Bartos. 4.58.

Composition. (1942) Oil on canvas, 42 x 42". Gift of Miss Silvia Pizitz.  
6.59

Jacob EPSTEIN. British, born U.S.A. 1880. Worked in London from 1905 until his  
death in 1959.

Reclining Nude. (1946) Bronze, 21 3/4" long. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur  
Lejwa in memory of Leon Chalette. 82.58

Note: This and the following figure are two of 18 variations first shown  
in London in 1947.

Reclining Nude. (1946) Bronze, 28 1/4" long. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur  
Lejwa in memory of Leon Chalette. 603.59

Alberto GIACOMETTI. Swiss, born 1901. Lives in Paris.

Dog. (1956) Bronze, 18" high x 39" long x 6 1/8" deep. A. Conger Goodyear Fund. 120.58.

Emile GILJOLI. French, born 1911. Lives in Paris.

Sky and Sea. (1956) Baccarat crystal, 10 1/2" high. Gift of Louis Carré. 121.58

Robert GOODNOUGH. American, born 1917. Lives in New York.

Laocoon. 1958. Oil and charcoal on canvas, 66 3/8 x 54 1/8". Given anonymously. 9.59

Gertrude GREENE. American, 1911-1956.

White Anxiety. (1943-44) Painted wood relief construction on masonite, 41 3/4 x 32 7/8 x 2 7/8". Gift of Balcomb Greene. 658.59

Note: Gertrude Greene was the secretary of the American Abstract Artists founded in 1936. Her husband, Balcomb Greene, was the first president of the A.A.A.

David HARE. American, born 1917. Lives in New York.

Sunset I. (1953) Stone and painted wire, 19 1/4" high. Purchase. 669.59

Gwen JOHN. British, 1876-1939.

Girl with Bare Shoulders. (c.1920?) Oil on canvas, 17 1/8 x 10 1/4". A. Conger Goodyear Fund. 124.58

Note: Gwen John was the older sister of the much more famous Augustus John who generously, and perhaps rightly, called her the better artist. She studied at the Slade School in London in the late nineties, then with Whistler in Paris. She became a close friend of Rodin and posed for the figure in his ill-starred monument to Whistler. She was a devoted friend of the poet, Rilke, and later she came to know the great New York collector, John Quinn, who bought many of her paintings. Her art, like her character, was reticent but intense.

Zoltan KEMENY. Swiss, born Hungary 1907. Lives in Zurich and Paris.

Sculpture Number 18. (1957) Brass mounted on wood, 33 5/8 x 21 7/8". Gift of G. David Thompson. 12.59.

Gabriel KOHN. American, born 1910. Lives in New York.

Tilted Construction. (1959) Laminated wood, 30 1/4" high. Philip C. Johnson Fund. 606.59.

Frans KRAJCBERG. Brazilian, born Poland 1921. Lives in Paris.

Painting Number I. 1957. Oil on canvas, 36 1/8 x 28 3/4". Inter-American Fund. 125.58.

Note: Bought from the São Paulo Biennial, autumn 1957.

Ger LATASTER. Dutch, born 1920. Lives in Amsterdam.

Threatened Game. 1956. Oil on composition board, 48 x 68". Gift of G. David Thompson. 14.59

Note: Lataster was a friend and fellow student of the slightly younger and better-known Karel Appel. When Appel left for Paris in 1950,

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Lataster remained in Amsterdam. In Threatened Game a child at the right holds a ball above his head as he tumbles backward from the red flame and black smoke of a bomb.

Fernand LÉGER. French, 1881-1955. Lived in New York, 1940-46.

Umbrella and Bowler. 1926. Oil on canvas, 50 1/4 x 38 3/4". A. Conger Goodyear Fund. 650.59.

Mechanical Fragment. 1943-44. Oil on canvas board, 24 x 19 7/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Peters. 259.57.

Note: Painted in New York.

Landscape with Yellow Hat. 1952. Oil on canvas, 36 1/4 x 28 7/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Solinger. 292.58.

René MAGRITTE. Belgian, born 1898. Lives in Brussels.

Souvenir du voyage. 1955. Oil on canvas, 63 7/8 x 51 1/4". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John de Menil. 607.59.

MANOLO (Manuel Martínez Hugué). Spanish, 1872-1945. Worked in France..

Grape Harvester. (1913) Bronze, 17 3/4" high. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lejwa. 260.57.

Reginald MARSH. American, 1898-1954.

In Fourteenth Street. 1934. Egg tempera on composition board, 35 7/8 x 39 3/4". Gift of Mrs. Reginald Marsh. 262.57.

Luis MARTÍNEZ PEDRO. Cuban, born 1910. Lives in Havana.

Composition Number 13. 1957. Oil on canvas, 58 1/8 x 38". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cantor. 672.59.

George MC NEIL. American, born 1908. Lives in Brooklyn.

Constanza. 1958. Oil on composition board, 47 7/8 x 47 7/8". Larry Aldrich Foundation Fund. 17.59.

Claude MONET. French, 1840-1926.

Water Lilies. (c. 1920) Oil on canvas in triptych form, each section 6 1/2 feet high x 14 feet long. Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. 666.59.1-3.

Note: Painted in the artist's studio at Giverny about 1920 this 42-foot composition is one of a series of murals inspired by the artist's garden. Monet was eighty years old at the time.

In the Museum's Water Lilies the reflections of sky, clouds and foliage mingle with flowers and mist. These floating ambiguous images and the flat, steeply rising perspective tend to give the scene an unreal or abstract effect. At the same time Monet has given emphatic reality to the painted surface by means of broad sweeping brush strokes combined with a many-layered, scraped and scumbled technique of extraordinary richness.

These qualities together with the large scale are among the factors which in recent years have made Monet's late work important to the abstract painters of our mid-century.

Yet in spite of the quasi-abstract effect of the Water Lilies mural Monet always remained essentially an Impressionist in his dependence upon nature. The Water Lilies are indeed the culmination of

Impressionism but they transcend the essentially intimate, casual and everyday spirit of Impressionism. The Water Lilies seem symphonic in their grandeur of scale, their breadth of vision and their glory of color.

A similar triptych forms part of the enormous panorama of the same subject installed in the two great oval rooms in the Orangerie gallery in Paris. Except for the Orangerie series the Museum's triptych is the largest mural painting by Monet. The triptych was slightly damaged during a bombardment of Giverny in 1944 but very little of the original paint was lost.

Robert MULLER. Swiss, born 1920. Lives in Paris.

Ex Voto. (1957) Forged iron, 83 7/8" high. Philip C. Johnson Fund. 18.59

Reuben NAKIAN. American, born 1897. Lives in Stamford, Connecticut.

Rock Drawing. (1958) Terra cotta, 10" high. Purchased in memory of Philip L. Goodwin. 19.59.

Note: Rock Drawing is one of many similar pieces made as studies while the artist was working on the large construction The Rape of Lucrece, now on view in the stair tower at the extreme northeast corner of the ground floor.

Barnett NEWMAN. American, born 1905. Lives in New York.

Abraham. 1949. Oil on canvas, 82 3/4 x 34 1/2". Philip C. Johnson Fund. 651.59.

Pablo PICASSO. Spanish, born 1881. Lives in France.

Head. Painted at Royan, March 3, 1940. Oil on paper mounted on canvas, 25 1/2 x 18 1/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bunshaft. 264.57.

Jackson POLLOCK. American, 1912-1956.

Number 5. 1950. Oil on canvas, 53 3/4 x 39". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bareiss. 155.57.

Milton RESNICK. American, born Russia 1917. Lives in New York.

Burning Bush. 1959. Oil on canvas, 63 x 48". Larry Aldrich Foundation Fund. 612.59.

Medardo ROSSO. Italian, 1858-1928.

The Bookmaker. (1894) Wax over plaster, 17 7/8" high. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 673.59.

Note: Medardo Rosso, Italian by birth and training, was perhaps the most advanced sculptor working in Paris during the 1880's and 1890's. He was known and admired by Zola, Degas, Rodin and other leaders. His friendship with Rodin led to their exchange of sculptures.

The Bookmaker is perhaps his most original single figure though it was surpassed in boldness by some of his portraits and groups. The Bookmaker, done in 1894, is said to have influenced the striking backward-slanting stance of Rodin's great figure of Balzac of 1897, a cast of which is in the Museum Garden.

Mark ROTHKO. American, born Russia 1903. Lives in New York.

Red, Brown and Black. 1958. Oil on canvas, 8' 10 5/8" x 9' 9 1/4". Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. 21.59.

Salvatore SCARPITTA. American, born 1919. Lives in New York.

Composition Number I. (1959) Oil and casein on canvas stretched over armature, 45 3/4 x 35 1/8". The artist has called his works "extramurals". Gift of William S. Rubin. 615.59.

Iaroslav SERPAN. French, born Czechoslovakia 1922. Lives in Paris.

Murtsphde. (1957) Oil on canvas, 57 1/2 x 44 7/8". Gift of G. David Thompson. 22.59.

Ben SHAHN. American, born 1898. Lives in Roosevelt, New Jersey.

Man. (1946) Tempera on masonite, 22 7/8 x 16 3/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Powis Jones. 141.58.

Note: This head is a detail of a design for a C.I.O. poster. An earlier version of a prisoner behind barbed wire was painted for the Office of War Information in 1943. Questioned as to the painting's significance, Shahn answered: "Man as long as he lasts on this earth (if he remains at all) will always be of interest to the student of the present and the future (if there be one)."

Joseph STELLA. American, born Italy. 1877-1946.

The Battle of Lights. (1913-14? Dated on canvas 1914 and 1915) Oil on canvas, 20 1/4" diameter (irregular). Elizabeth Bliss Parkinson Fund. 143.58.

Note: Said to be a study for the large Battle of Light, Coney Island, 1913, now in the Yale University Art Gallery, Société Anonyme Collection.

Kumi SUGAI. Japanese, born 1920. Lives in Paris.

Kabuki. 1958. Oil and gilt paint on canvas, 57 1/2 x 44 5/8". Mr. and Mrs. John de Menil Fund. 26.59.

TAKIS (Takis Vassilakis). Greek, born 1925. Lives in Paris.

Mobile construction. (1958?) Painted iron and wire, 48" high. Purchase. 675.59.

Jean TINGUELY. Swiss, born 1923. Lives in Paris.

Hatching Egg. 1958. Motorized construction of painted metal and plywood, 32 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 9". Gift of Erwin Burghard Steiner. 616.59.

Louis VALTAT. French, 1869-1952.

Nude in Forest. (c.1905) Oil on burlap, 24 1/8 x 32 3/8". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Fischbach. 291.58.

Note: Valtat was born the same year as Matisse and was associated with the fauve group.

Max WEBER. American, born 1881. Lives in Great Neck, Long Island.

Air-Light-Shadow. (1915) Polychromed plaster, 28 7/8" high. Blanchette Rockefeller Fund. 654.59.

Note: One of several sculptures done by Weber in 1915, an extraordinarily early date for this degree of abstraction.

Bryan WYNTER. British, born 1915. Lives in Cornwall.

Meeting Place. (1957) Oil on canvas, 56 x 44". G. David Thompson Fund.  
617.59.

Manoucher YEKTAI. American, born Iran 1921. Lives in New York.

Still Life D. 1959. Oil on canvas, 48 1/4 x 68". Gift of Mr. and Mrs.  
Bernard J. Reis. 618.59.