

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

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

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The major spring exhibition of painting at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, will be 'Claude Monet: Seasons and Moments', an exhibition of more than 100 works by the Impressionist master on view from March 9 to May 15. The exhibition will emphasize landscapes representing a single motif, in more than one version, at different hours of the day or seasons of the year, and will culminate in the largest group of "series" works ever shown together - Haystacks, Poplars, Cathedrals, Views of the Thames, Venice, Water Lilies, etc. William Seitz, a professor of art at Princeton University, is director of the exhibition.

Between 1891 and 1912, each of the most important groups was shown individually, though they have not been seen in this way since. These exhibitions received extravagant praise, but they were also criticized, and have remained the most controversial of Monet's works. After 1930, and until the recent revival of interest in the Water Lilies, the better-known style of the 70's was preferred. Along with parallel works by Pissarro, Renoir, and Sisley, these early canvases were often regarded as the only "true" Impressionism.

Among the selections from the 27 year cycle of "Water Landscapes" is the triptych recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, and already put on view in connection with the Museum's 30th Anniversary Fund Raising Drive. This immense composition is made up of three canvases each measuring 6 1/2 x 14'. It was painted at Monet's home in Giverny about six years before his death, and is a variant of one of the large panels later installed in two specially-designed oval rooms in the Orangerie of the Tuilleries.

Claude Monet was born in 1840 in Paris, but spent his youth in Le Havre, where his uncle and father were wholesale grocers and ship chandlers. By the age of 15 he became well-known locally as a caricaturist, and not long afterward was induced by Eugène Boudin to try his hand at outdoor painting. Young Claude-Oscar Monet had dismissed Boudin's landscape studies with aversion, but as he watched the elder artist working one day at Rouelles, near Le Havre, the pattern of his life was changed. His eyes were opened to nature, as he later recalled, in a sudden enlightenment, and Monet became a devoted painter of landscape.

Over a period of almost 70 years - from the late 1850's to his death in 1926 - Monet in all probability produced more than 3,000 paintings, the vast majority of which were landscapes, seascapes, and river scenes. His development, which this exhibition traces, followed a path from direct, but general, representations of season and light toward more and more specific, momentary, and transitory effects of weather and atmosphere. Late in the 70's he began to repeat his subjects under different conditions of light, and in the 90's this became a regular procedure. Its result was the famous "series."

The paintings are being borrowed from public and private collections here and abroad for the exhibition, which will go to the Los Angeles County Museum following its New York showing. The illustrated exhibition catalog will contain an essay by Mr. Seitz on Monet as a painter of nature.

\*\*\*\*\* and photographs \*\*\*\*\*

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