

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FIFTEEN POLISH PAINTERS by Peter Selz. 64 pages, 65 plates (1 in color). Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc. \$2.75.

Fifteen Polish Painters, a 62-page paperback by Peter Selz, has been published by The Museum of Modern Art in conjunction with its comprehensive exhibition of recent Polish painting on view in New York through October 1, and scheduled to travel throughout the country during the coming year. This is the first book in English devoted to Poland's vital new art movement. It is available at the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, and in bookstores throughout the country for \$2.75.

Mr. Selz discusses the resurgence in artistic activity which has taken place in Poland since World War II and describes the work of 15 leading painters selected to represent the most important trends among the avant garde. He notes that while the first wave of abstraction in Poland in the 20's was of suprematist and post-impressionist derivation, the current work is influenced primarily by surrealism and tachism. Like post-war art everywhere it is characterized by a new synthesis of rational and emotional aspects.

The first abstract tendencies to emerge after the war met with government opposition when exhibited in Cracow in 1945. Abstract art was labeled decadent and for the next ten years only works of political propaganda value were shown in large national exhibitions. However, since 1955, when the Arsenal Exhibition of Young Painters was organized in opposition to this social realist officialdom, artists have been allowed to develop their own personal styles and the government has sent their work to major international exhibitions in Venice, Paris, Kassel and São Paulo.

The 15 artists represented are Brzozowski, Dominik, Fangor, Gierowski, Kantor, Kierzkowski, Kobzdej, Lebenstein, Nowosielski, Pagowska, Potworowski, Rudowicz, Stazewski, Tchorzewski, and Warzecha. All of them have participated in exhibitions in various European cities and most of them have recently exhibited in the United States. Several have been included in Guggenheim international award shows.

The book includes photographs and brief biographies of the artists as well as reproductions of one to six works by each. Also included is a catalog of the exhibition which will travel under the auspices of the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions with the aid of a grant from the CBS Foundation Inc., the organization through which the Columbia Broadcasting System makes contributions to educational and cultural institutions.

Mr. Selz, Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, directed the exhibition. He is author of German Expressionist Painting, New Images of Man, Mark Rothko and editor of Art Nouveau.

Photographs and review copies are available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City - CI. 5-8900.