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GIFTS OF SCULPTURE BY MAILLOL AND LEHMBRUCK TO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

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The Museum of Modern Art announces the gift of five very important works of modern sculpture - a relief and two figures in plaster by Aristide Maillol, the gift of the sculptor; a bronze torso by Maillol, the gift of A. Conger Goodyear, the President of the Museum; and a colossal bronze figure of a standing woman by Wilhelm Lehmbruck, the gift of Stephen C. Clark.

The three gifts from Maillol himself are a plaster of "Desire" his most famous early relief and two figures of women, "Spring" and "Summer". The plasters were made from the original moulds and were passed by the sculptor. Only four other examples, all in bronze, exist, so that these three are unique in medium so far as these particular works are concerned. They have been painted tones of green in order to overcome the lifeless color of the plaster. The bronze by Maillol is one of the finest and possibly the best known of his torsos. The bronze standing figure by Lehmbruck is one of the best known works of this, the foremost modern German sculptor. The original plaster from which this bronze was cast was made in 1910 at the beginning of the sculptor's Paris period, and was exhibited in the Armory Show in 1913 where it was purchased by Mr. Clark.

The Museum is extremely fortunate in securing these five works as a cornerstone to its collection of modern sculpture. Maillol, frequently mentioned as the greatest living sculptor, works in the classical tradition handed down from Egypt through Greece and Rome and to the Italian Renaissance. The relief "Desire" challenges by its ingenious composition and simple massive forms the metopes of the temples of Olympia and Athens. "Spring" and "Summer" contrast a slim, virginal figure with the richer curves of maturity, though both avoid realism and maintain a balance between actuality and a classic ideal. The bronze torso possesses an extraordinary vitality and seems almost to lift itself from its pedestal. Maillol seems satisfied with a Greek humanistic and physical attitude toward sculpture but Lehmbruck, though influenced by Maillol, informs his figures with sentiment and an atmosphere of thought which is over and above his mastery of modelling and formal composition.

All five gifts are at present on exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 730 Fifth Avenue, together with other sculptures by Maillol and Lehmbruck, a retrospective exhibition of the works of Max Weber, and an exhibition of paintings by Paul Klee.

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