

# The Museum of Modern Art

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ALBERTO GIACOMETTI, introduction by Peter Selz, with an autobiographical statement by the artist. 120 pages, 112 illustrations (16 in color). Hardbound \$7.95; paperbound \$3.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc.

James Lord, A GIACOMETTI PORTRAIT. 80 pages, 12 illustrations showing the portrait at different stages. Paperbound, \$1.50. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc.

The Museum of Modern Art will publish two books about Alberto Giacometti on June 9 on the occasion of the opening of a major retrospective exhibition of the works of the famous 64-year old artist. ALBERTO GIACOMETTI, with an introduction by Peter Selz and an autobiographical statement by the artist (\$7.95 hardbound, \$3.95 paperbound) brings together an unprecedented richness of illustration with the artist's own explanation of his aims and intentions. James Lord, A GIACOMETTI PORTRAIT (\$1.50 paperbound) is a personal account written while Giacometti painted a portrait of the author last year.

Born in Stampa, Switzerland, in 1901, Giacometti came to Paris at the age of 21 and has lived there in the ensuing years, though he returns to Stampa, where the Giacometti family has lived since the 1300's, at least once each year. During the '20s Giacometti engaged in a series of highly original and imaginative experiments, influenced by primitive and Egyptian sculpture as well as current Cubist work. From 1929 to 1936 he was associated with the Surrealists.

For fifteen years, beginning in 1934, Giacometti refused to show his work. Finally, in 1948, he permitted Pierre Matisse to hold a one-man show of sculpture and painting in his New York gallery. The following year he was honored by a one-man exhibition at the Venice Biennale and at the Kunsthalle in Bern. In 1962 he was awarded the Grand Prize for sculpture at the Venice Biennale and at the Pittsburgh International Exhibition. Last year, Giacometti was given the Guggenheim International Award for painting.

(more)

Working alone, never connected for very long with any movement, and with neither followers nor imitators, Giacometti has created a body of work that is extraordinary for its beauty and insight. As Peter Selz, Curator of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, writes in his critical introduction, his "linear paintings, nervous mobile drawings and sculptures of 'petrified incompleteness' testify to a great artist's struggle to find an equivalent for the human phenomenon."

Giacometti's own words, set down in an autobiographical letter to his friend and dealer, Pierre Matisse, are reproduced in facsimile as well as in translation in order to include the many explanatory drawings Giacometti sketched in the margins of the original. The letter reveals how intensely personal his approach to form has been.

Many of the 112 illustrations, including 16 in color, are photographs of Giacometti's work in all media, taken by the well-known photographer and designer, Herbert Matter, in France, Switzerland and in this country. They constitute a pictorial record of Giacometti's activity and accomplishment in all the areas he has explored: sculpture, painting and drawing. The 120-page book includes a full chronology identifying the major events in Giacometti's career as well as a selective bibliography listing the most informative published works about him.

In 1964 Giacometti worked for 18 days on a portrait in oil of his American friend, James Lord. The result was not only the artist's portrait of his model but also the model's portrait of the artist, based on notes made during and immediately after each sitting.

James Lord, A GIACOMETTI PORTRAIT offers an intimate view of the personality and creative methods of one of the great artists of our time. In this 80-page book, Giacometti and his art come vividly alive in an accumulation of revealing detail. The 12 illustrations, showing the portrait of Lord in various stages of development, add immeasurably to the reader's insight into Giacometti's approach to his work.

An American writer - author of two novels - who lived in France for many years, Mr. Lord knows Giacometti well and has previously published several articles about him. The portrait is included in the show.

The Giacometti exhibition, consisting of 70 sculptures, 35 paintings and 35 drawings, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art in New York from June 9 through October 10, 1965, and will then be shown in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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Review copies and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.