

The Museum of Modern Art

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PRESS PREVIEW:

Monday, November 1, 1965

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

School of Paris: Paintings from the Florene May Schoenborn and Samuel A. Marx Collection on view at The Museum of Modern Art

Forty-four School of Paris paintings from one of the world's great private collections will be on public view for the first time at The Museum of Modern Art from November 2 through January 2. The collection, begun in 1939 by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Marx of Chicago, includes outstanding works by: Bonnard, Braque, de Chirico, Dubuffet, Dufy, Gris, La Fresnaye, Léger, Matisse, Miro, Modigliani, Picasso, Rouault and Soutine. The paintings have been lent to the Museum by Mr. Marx's widow, Mrs. Florene May Schoenborn, and will later be shown in Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco and Mexico City.

In his introduction to the exhibition catalog*, James Thrall Soby says, "The collection has been kept small deliberately -- and this is an era when other inspired American collectors have preferred to buy in number. The process of its distillation and refinement has been continuous....The collection's founders never shared the current passion, sometimes genuine and deep, sometimes vainglorious, for discovering major artists in their embryonic state. Instead their aim was to buy and cherish the truly exalted works of painters and sculptors of international repute. Their aim has not been easy to achieve. It has won the collection a world-wide respect."

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, writes in the catalog preface, "What gives the Marx collection its character is the dozen or so magnificent paintings that even ten years ago would have seemed, to most collectors, too

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*THE SCHOOL OF PARIS: PAINTINGS FROM THE FLORENE MAY SCHOENBORN AND SAMUEL A. MARX COLLECTION, with a foreword by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., an introduction by James Thrall Soby and notes by Lucy R. Lippard. 56 pages; 45 illustrations (16 in color). Paperbound \$2.95; hardbound \$5.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art; hardbound distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc.

big, too aggressive and too strong to live with: Léger's Woman with Cat and La Fresnaye's Artillery; Picasso's Woman's Head and cubist Woman with Pears, his monstrous blue surrealist Bather and his Girl Reading; and finally, the heroic Matisse's of the great years 1911 to 1916: the largest and most abstract of the seven goldfish paintings, de Heem's grandiose still life exploding in color, the austere Woman on a High Stool and the culminating Moroccans."

The exhibition was directed by Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions and Publications, and installed by Alicia Legg, Associate Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions. Four paintings given by Mr. and Mrs. Marx to The Museum of Modern Art are included, and six given to The Art Institute of Chicago.

The itinerary of the show is:

The Art Institute of Chicago (Feb. 11 - March 27, 1966)

The City Art Museum of St. Louis (April 26 - June 13, 1966)

Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City (July 2 - August 2, 1966)

San Francisco Museum of Art (Sept. 2 - Oct. 2, 1966)

Photographs and catalogs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y.