

The Museum of Modern Art

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RENE MAGRITTE by James Thrall Soby. 80 pages; 72 illustrations (16 in color). Paperbound, \$2.95; hardbound, \$6.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art; hardbound edition distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc.

RENE MAGRITTE, by James Thrall Soby, has been published by The Museum of Modern Art in conjunction with the exhibition of work by the famous Belgian surrealist painter recently shown in New York and now touring the country.

In his introductory text, Mr. Soby traces Magritte's stylistic development, and in his analysis of individual paintings -- from the first surrealist pictures to his most recent works -- he reveals the sources of Magritte's imagery and provides new interpretations for some of his major works. A chronology and bibliography, including writings by the artist, supplement the text. James Thrall Soby, a well-known critic and scholar, is the author of many books published by the Museum, including monographs on the surrealist artists Giorgio de Chirico and Yves Tanguy.

René Magritte was born in Belgium in 1898, and he has lived in Brussels all his adult life except for a three year period in the late 20's when he joined the surrealist group in Paris. Influenced by de Chirico, Magritte observed: "Chirico was the first to dream of what must be painted and not how to paint." Magritte's first one-man show was held in Brussels in 1927. During the 1930's he was represented in the major international exhibitions of surrealist art. His first one-man exhibition in this country was held at the Julien Levy Gallery in 1936, and in 1960, a retrospective exhibition was presented by the Museum for Contemporary Arts in Dallas.

The Museum's exhibition, selected by William C. Seitz, former Curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, and James Thrall Soby, was prepared in collaboration with the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University; The Art Institute of Chicago; The University Art Museum, University of California Museum, Berkeley; and the Pasadena Art Museum. It will be shown in those institutions in 1966.

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