

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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PRESS PREVIEW:

Monday, October 17, 1966

1 - 5 p.m.

Major exhibitions of recent Japanese art and recent American art will open in New York and Tokyo respectively in mid-October under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 19 through December 26, midway in an extensive tour of the United States. Selected late in 1964 by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Museum Collections, and William S. Lieberman, Director of Drawings and Prints, the exhibition consists of more than 100 works by 46 Japanese artists. Two Decades of American Painting, selected by Waldo Rasmussen, Executive Director of the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions, consists of 109 works by 35 American artists, and will be shown at the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo from October 15 through November 27, and in Kyoto through December.

The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture, installed at the Museum by Miss Miller, is the largest exhibition of contemporary Japanese art so far presented in the United States. All the artists in the show were born in Japan, although nearly half of them are living at present in New York or Europe. Slightly more than half the exhibition consists of paintings, the rest of sculptures, constructions and assemblages, and nearly all date from the 1960s. Many loans to the show came directly from the artists and over 55 works have been sold to private collectors and museums since the show began its tour in April 1965.

Japanese participation in the international art exhibitions at Venice, Sao Paulo, Pittsburgh and New York has in recent years brought about an increasing awareness in the West of the remarkable developments in the art of Japan. However, until this show was organized, a number of leading Japanese artists had not yet exhibited in this country and the younger generation was scarcely known here.

(more)

Mr. Lieberman points out in the introduction to the exhibition catalog*:

"Although the exhibition is in no way a definitive survey of modern art in Japan, it nevertheless indicates some directions that seem especially vital today. The Museum of Modern Art feels privileged to present the exhibition to the American public, in the hope that it may focus attention not only on these particular artists and their work, but on the entire course of development now taking place among Japanese-born artists. If one may predict the future from the past, few can doubt that in the twentieth century, as so often before in her history, Japan will benefit by international contacts and stimuli from abroad, and from her native genius will produce an art distinctively her own."

The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, under whose auspices the exhibition has been touring in the United States since 1965, is a non-profit membership organization of 147 art patrons in the United States and 17 foreign countries. Since 1957 the Council has sponsored the activities of The Museum of Modern Art abroad, as well as many exhibitions of the art of other countries circulating in the United States.

The exhibition originated as a project undertaken in collaboration with the San Francisco Museum of Art, where it was first shown, and it was assisted by generous grants from the San Francisco Museum of Art and The JDR 3rd Fund, which supplemented the contribution of the International Council. The Museum is grateful to His Excellency Ryuji Takeuchi, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, for generously extending his patronage to the exhibition.

The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture, after the initial showing in San Francisco, has since been seen at the Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado; Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska; and the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus, Ohio. After the New York showing it will travel to the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Milwaukee Art Center.

*THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. An exhibition selected by Dorothy C. Miller and William S. Lieberman. With an essay by William S. Lieberman. 116 pages, 136 illustrations (13 in color). Hardbound, \$5.95; paperbound, \$2.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; hardbound edition distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc.

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

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The Museum of Modern Art

By Messenger

To TELEVISION PRESS

From ELIZABETH SHAW, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, 11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK. CIRCLE 5-8900, ext. 201, 202, 203

Date OCTOBER 14, 1966

Re THE NEW JAPANESE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE EXHIBITION PREVIEW

A three foot ^{high} cast aluminum ear, three life-size figures of painted plaster, cloth and polyester wrapped in red and white striped banners, a twelve part screen of aluminum and canvas, as well as more conventional works of oil on canvas, marble and stone and ceramic sculpture, will be seen by approximately 2,000 Contributing Members of The Museum of Modern Art at a black tie preview of The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture exhibition, Monday evening, October 17, between 8:00 and 11:30 p.m.

A dinner for 125 people honoring the artists and lenders will be given by the Museum Trustees in the sixth floor Founders' Room before the preview. Beginning at 6:30, dinner guests will be given a pre-preview of the show prior to going upstairs for cocktails and dinner.

The exhibition consists of more than 100 works by 46 Japanese artists, selected by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Museum Collections, and William S. Lieberman, Director of Drawings and Prints.

The Museum's 35,000 regular members have been invited to an all day preview on Tuesday. The exhibition opens to the public on Wednesday, October 19.

The exhibition is mid-way in an extensive tour of the United States under the auspices of the Museum's International Council.

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