

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, November 2, 1966

Before being shipped to West Africa, the 31st collection of art assembled by the Committee for Art in Embassies of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art will have a private viewing for UN delegates on Tuesday, November 1, and for Contributing Members of the Museum on November 4, 5 and 6. The exhibition, 25 Americans: Contemporary Artists as Printmakers, will be shown in the Trustees' Room of the Museum. It will then travel on a special tour arranged by Mrs. George A. Morgan, wife of the United States Ambassador to the Ivory Coast in Abidjan.

The Committee for Art in Embassies, whose chairman is Mrs. John Farr Simmons, has sponsored an extensive program of sending works of art to American embassies since 1960. The UN delegates from those countries in which the show, prepared for Africa, will travel after the opening in Abidjan, were invited to the November 1 preview. The present schedule of the tour includes Chad, Dahomey, Liberia, Niger, The Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta.

The exhibition selected by William S. Lieberman, Director of Drawings and Prints, includes the work of West Coast and mid-western artists as well as painters and sculptors living on the eastern seaboard and, in one case, England. Mr. Lieberman was requested to choose works which would indicate current aspects in American painting and sculpture. He says: "For convenience, it might be said that the selection began with Jasper Johns' startling 'double map' of the United States. The choice of forty prints, however, attempts to reflect briefly and by a minor medium various recent trends in painting and sculpture in the United States: abstract expressionism with examples by Gottlieb, Motherwell and Sam Francis; 'the responsive eye' with the geometric images of Albers and Anuszkiewicz and with the looser linear schemes of Brach and Pearson; 'hard edge' with Kelly and McLaughlin; the 'return to the figure' with Gill, Jones and McGarrell; 'pop' with Dine, Lichtenstein and Rosenquist. There are also more sculptural metaphors in the disquieting, often ambiguous images of Kitaj, Nevelson and Trova."

(more)

All prints shown in the exhibition were done in the 1960's, for the most part since 1964. With the exception of three embossed and inkless intaglios by Rayo and Wesselmann, only lithographs and serigraphs have been chosen. Future exhibitions may be concerned specifically with etching and engraving and with the woodcut.

For convenience in transportation within Africa, none of the prints matted exceeds the size of 30 x 40 inches. All prints are glazed in plexiglas and are framed in aluminum. The exhibition will be accompanied by color slides as well as photographs of the artists and their biographies.

25 Americans: Contemporary Artists as Printmakers represents a departure for the Committee for Art in Embassies which until now has assembled a separate collection for each embassy. However, Mrs. Morgan's collection, which was sent to the Ivory Coast last February, aroused so much interest in neighboring countries that it was decided to prepare a traveling show for institutions in those countries under the auspices of the various American embassies.

Additional information and photographs 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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To Joseph Herzberg, Sanka Knox - New York Times; John Gruen, World Journal Tribune;
 Jim Jensen - CBS; Len Probst, NBC News; John Carr - WNYC; Leslie Dietz - WNEW-TV;
 Len Harris - CBS; Les Dennis - NBC News; Gilbert Milstein, Huntley Brinkley, NBC;
 Wiley Hance - ABC-TV; Lee Jordan - CBS News; Liz Trotta - NBC-News; Peggy Polk-UPI;
 Tom Sternberg - NBC-TV Today show.

From Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, Circle 5-8900, ext. 201

Date November 1, 1966

Re 25 AMERICANS: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AS PRINTMAKERS

The private viewing of 25 AMERICANS: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AS PRINTMAKERS, the 31st collection of art assembled by the Committee for Art in Embassies of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. today in the Trustees' Room of the Museum.

This special viewing will be for the American artists represented in the show and for U.N. delegates from those countries in West Africa where the show will travel after the opening in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Among the U.N. delegates attending will be Madame Berrah and Louis Guirandon N'Diayes, representatives from Ivory Coast; Nathaniel Eastman from Liberia; Mahamat Gabdou from Chad; Ambrose Genda, Sierra Leone, Attoumbre Gervais, Ivory Coast; J.T.F. Iyalla, Niger; and Edward Kufour of Ghana.

Artists attending will be Richard Anuszkiewicz, Romare Bearden, Ellsworth Kelly, Jacob Lawrence, Alexander Liberman, Robert Motherwell, Helen Frankenthaler, Henry Pearson and Omar Rayo.

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