

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

415  
NO. 143  
FOR RELEASE:  
DECEMBER 10, 1971

---

**VIOLENT AMERICA: THE MOVIES 1946 - 1964** by Lawrence Alloway. 96 pages; 73 illustrations; clothbound \$7.95; paperbound \$4.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound edition distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd. in the United States and Canada; Transatlantic Book Service Ltd. in the United Kingdom; and Feffer and Simons internationally.

---

VIOLENT AMERICA: THE MOVIES 1946 - 1964 a study of the American action film by noted art critic Lawrence Alloway, will be published by The Museum of Modern Art on December 13.

An important and engrossing addition to the literature of our popular culture, this book focuses on the American action film at its zenith. Mr. Alloway takes into account the usual humanist criticism which treats the "film" as Art and then goes beyond it. Flatly recognizing the "movies" as an art springing from popular culture, he views them in relation to other popular art forms and as part of our entire society, particularly as they contribute to our taste for violence.

The author characterizes popular genres -- for example, gangster movies, the Western, movies about social problems -- as they have developed and influenced one another. He talks about heroes, villains, femmes fatales and the actors who play them. Avoiding the currently popular identification of movies with their directors, Mr. Alloway talks about films which bear the stamp of, say, the producer or the star, as well as those which are clearly team efforts.

Included in the book is an appendix of program notes for the thirty-five films in the series "The American Action Film 1946 - 64," directed by Mr. Alloway at The Museum of Modern Art in the spring of 1969. Among these films are "The Killers" (1946 and 1964 versions), "The Lady from Shanghai," "Kiss Me Deadly," "In a Lonely Place," "Written on the Wind," and "The Manchurian Candidate."

Lawrence Alloway is art critic for The Nation and Professor of Art, State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has taught at Bennington College and from 1962 to 1966

(more)

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 W. 53 St., New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-8100 Cable, Newmocaart

NO. 144

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 1971

NO. 143

-2-

he was Curator of The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. A citizen of the United Kingdom, he presently resides in New York City.

the hours have been extended for the holiday season.

Unusual and inexpensive gifts include beautiful and intriguing objects. Christmas

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information, review copies and stills available from Diana Goldin, Coordinator of Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7297, -7501

\*\*\*\*\*

Legend, both by Ben Shahn. Little Red Riding Hood, a photograph with color symbols unfolds to tell a story that has enchanted children and adults for generations.

Snap Snap Snap, designed by Bill Mine, consists of flexible vinyl triangles which snap together at the corners to make endless varieties of forms -- cylindrical, flat, round. Priced at \$8.00 for the set, it comes packaged in a bright red triangular box.

Cards and constructions from 20c to \$2 reproduce classic works by artists in the Museum collection -- among them Calder, Matisse and Reinhardt -- while others have been specially commissioned from such artists as Dine, Indiana and Ockerse. Among the constructions that can serve as presents or stocking stuffers are Tom Kliba's paper mobile For Love of Rainbows (\$1), and Sydney Burdick's Compass Rose, a star made of acetate in brilliant colors (also \$1).

Other gifts include posters, kaleidoscopes, The Ball Puzzle, a sculptural object of clear lucite, the puzzle-game Snowflake, and The Jekyll Glass, a glittering paper-weight, wall or table object that reflects bizarre and often witty fun-house images.

Among the wide range of art books available are books published by the Museum including such recent titles as Walker Evans, Portrait of Picasso and E.J. Bellocq: Storyville Portraits.

The Christmas Shop also offers a selection of original works of art including

(more)