

The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 117

FOR RELEASE: October 18, 1972

PRESS PREVIEW: October 16, 1972

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

MASTERPIECES FROM PHILADELPHIA AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

PHILADELPHIA IN NEW YORK: 90 MODERN WORKS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 18 through January 7. Many of the masterpieces from the first four decades of this century which have made Philadelphia's collection a major repository of modern art are included.

Paintings, sculptures and collages by Picasso, Braque and Gris, Brancusi and Duchamp, by Léger, Miró, Matisse, Rousseau, Chagall, Kandinsky, Klee, Mondrian and many others will be shown in the exhibition which is drawn largely, though not exclusively, from the great collections formed by Louise and Walter Arensberg and A. E. Gallatin which were subsequently given to Philadelphia.

Among the eleven works by Picasso are the Self-Portrait and Woman with Loaves of 1906, major analytical Cubist paintings including Man with Violin (1911-12) and the great synthetic Cubist canvas of 1921, Three Musicians (companion piece to the painting of the same title and date in the Museum's own collection). Braque is represented by four works, and Juan Gris by six including the Man in a Café of 1912 and Place Ravignan, 1915. An entire gallery is devoted to the sculpture of Constantin Brancusi. Among the ten works by him are the limestone Kiss of 1912, Princess X (1916), Prodigal Son, 1915 and Chimera, 1918, both carved wood, the 1931 marble version of Mlle Pogany as well as two large architectural pieces in wood, Arch and Bench, both done in 1917. Surrounding Léger's monumental masterpiece, The City, of 1919, are four other canvases by him ranging in date from 1913 to 1923-27. Joan Miró is represented by six paintings including The Hermitage and Dog Barking at the Moon from the mid-twenties and Person in the Presence of Nature, 1935. Among the three canvases by Matisse are his famous 1914 portrait, Mlle Yvonne Landsberg and the Seated Nude, Back Turned of 1917. Three works by Marcel Duchamp -- his notorious

(more)

Nude Descending a Staircase, Number 2, of 1912, Chocolate Grinder, Number 2, 1914, and With Hidden Noise, an "assisted" readymade of 1916 -- have been selected from the Philadelphia Museum's unrivalled collection of his work. (A fuller presentation of Philadelphia's Duchamps will be seen at the Museum in the 1973-74 season in the retrospective of his works now in preparation by the Museum and Philadelphia.) Other familiar masterpieces in the show are the Douanier Rosseau's The Merry Jesters (1906), Chagall's Half-Past Three (The Poet) of 1911, and de Chirico's The Soothsayer's Recompense, painted in 1913.

Though the works in the show range in date from 1905 (Derain's fauve portrait of Matisse) to 1944 (the date of A. E. Gallatin's Composition), the large majority come from the three decades between 1907 and 1937, which saw the origin and development of Cubism and the related styles it spawned, and of the Dada and Surrealist movements.

PHILADELPHIA IN NEW YORK, directed by Betsy Jones, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, is part of an exchange of exhibitions, the first such reciprocal venture The Museum of Modern Art has ever undertaken with another institution. The other part, American Art Since 1945 - A Loan Exhibition from The Museum of Modern Art, opened earlier this fall at the Philadelphia Museum of Art under the direction of Anne d'Harnoncourt, Curator of its Department of Twentieth-Century Art.

Additional information, photographs, checklist and catalogues of both the Arensberg and Gallatin collections published by the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1954, are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, - 7504.
