

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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DUBUFFET: PERSONS AND PLACES

In 1942, at the age of forty, Jean Dubuffet finally decided to devote his full energies to painting. At the same time he destroyed most of his earlier work. Among the few surviving examples is the cheerful sanguine of his grandmother, drawn at the age of nineteen, which prefaces an exhibition of fifty of his later drawings shown at The Museum of Modern Art from November 9 through January 23.

Dubuffet: Persons and Places offers an informal survey of the artist's constantly evolving statements as a draftsman beginning in 1943. Persons and places represented are real or imagined. Those remembered range in subject from a French painter and poet to a New York Bowery bum, from the palm trees of El Golea in the Sahara to the counters of a department store in Paris. Persons and places imagined are revealed by an extraordinary vision which can transform figure and still life into landscape or invent, in exacting detail, microcosms and phenomena of unvisited worlds.

On paper, as in paint, Dubuffet usually composes in series. Among those illustrated in the exhibition are: Marionettes of the City and Country; Portraits: More Beautiful Than They Think; Roses of Allah: Clowns of the Desert; Metro and Metromania; Radiant Lands; Texturologies; Did You Pluck the Flower of the Beard?; Paris Circus; and Legends. The last drawings shown belong to the series "L'Hourloupe" the colors of which are blue, white and red. Today, as for several years, Dubuffet concentrates his major efforts upon sculpted and painted environments and monuments, often cast on an heroic scale, such as the recently unveiled Four Trees in Chase Manhattan Plaza.

Dubuffet: Persons and Places is one in a continuing series of exhibitions installed in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries on the 3rd floor to familiarize visitors with the Museum's extensive collection of drawings. The exhibition will subsequently be shown in Europe under the auspices of the Museum's International Program.

Photographs and additional information are available from Linda Gordon, Coordinator or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-2648 - 7501.

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Checklist

In the listing below, dates enclosed by parentheses do not appear on the drawings themselves. Dimensions of sheets are stated in inches and centimeters, height preceding width. With two exceptions all works are from the collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

"L." refers to the definitive Catalogue des travaux de Jean Dubuffet edited by Max Loreau and published by Jean-Jacques Pauvert, Paris. As of 1972, twenty-one volumes have appeared. With a very few exceptions all drawings and paintings are reproduced. "S." refers to the Supplément au catalogue des gravures et lithographies de Jean Dubuffet compiled by Ursula Schmitt and published by Charles Bernard, Paris for the Silkeborg Kunstmuseum in 1966. Several of the drawings listed are reproduced in two publications issued by The Museum of Modern Art: The Work of Jean Dubuffet by Peter Selz, 1962 and Jean Dubuffet: Drawings by Virginia Allen, 1968.

Hors Series

1. Mme Arthur Dubuffet. 1921. Crayon, 18 1/8 x 14 3/8" (45.9 x 36.5 cm.). Gift of the artist. 1314.68. (Photo: Mathews 2012). Not recorded by Loreau; Repr. Selz, p. 10

Marionettes of the City and Country (Marionnettes de la ville et de la campagne)

2. Cyclist with Five Cows (Cycliste avec cinq vaches). (July) 1943. Gouache, watercolor, brush and ink, 6 x 9 7/8" (15.2 x 25.0 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1319.68. (Photo: Mathews 2023) L.I, 78
3. Shadows Cast in the Pine Forest (Ombres portées dans la pinède). 3 June 1944. Pen and ink, 5 3/8 x 6 7/8" (13.6 x 17.5 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 236.68. (Photo: RP 2988). L.I, 265. Repr. Allen, p.1
4. Beach with Bathers (Plage aux baigneurs). 5 June 1944. Pen and ink, 6 3/8 x 9" (16.0 x 22.8 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1315.68. (Photo: Mathews 2011) L.I, 269
5. Figure (Personnage). 29 June 1944. Ink over gesso incised with pen, 11 1/4 x 6 5/8" (28.3 x 16.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 237.68. (Photo: RP 2955). L.I, 296. Repr. Allen, p. 2

Portraits: More Beautiful Than They Think (Plus beaux qu'ils croient: Portraits)

6. Michel Tapié. (August) 1946. Gouache and charcoal, 16 3/8 x 10 7/8" (41.6 x 27.5 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 238.68. (Photo: RP 2969). L.III, 11. Repr. Allen, p.3
7. Joë Bousquet in Bed (Joë Bousquet au lit). (January) 1947. Gouache and ink over gesso incised with pen, 19 1/2 x 12 3/4" (49.5 x 32.4 cm.). Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. 15.69. (Photo: Mathews 2648). L.III, 114
8. René Bertelé. (July-August) 1947. Reed pen and ink, 13 1/4 x 9 5/8" (33.5 x 24.5 cm.). Lent anonymously. TR 1920.10. (Photo: RP 2976) L.III, 137
9. Gaston Chaissac. (July-August) 1947. Crayon, 15 1/2 x 10 1/8" (39.2 x 25.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Maxime L. Hermanos. 591.64. (Photo: Mathews 2021). L.III, 143

Roses of Allah, Clowns of the Desert (Roses d'Allah, clowns du désert)

10. Footprints on the Sand (Traces de pas sur le sable). 1948. Pen and ink, 7 7/8 x 6 1/4" (19.9 x 15.7 cm.). Gift of the artist. 1333.68.9. (Photo: Mathews 5857). L.IV, 304
11. Burnous in the Wind (Burnous au vent; Arabe au Burnous). 1948. Pen and ink, 7 1/4 x 5" (18.4 x 12.5 cm.). Gift of the artist. 1333.68.26. (Photo: Mathews 5856). L.IV, 321
13. Arab (Arabe). 1948. Brush or reed pen and ink, 7 1/8 x 3 5/8" (18.1 x 9.1 cm.). Gift of the artist. 1333.68.107. (Photo: Mathews 5854). L.IV, 393
14. Arab (Arabe). (January) 1948. Colored chalks, 13 5/8 x 10 1/8" (34.4 x 25.6 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hahn. 234.68. (Photo: Mathews 1056). Not described by Loreau
15. Pollination of Palm Trees (Fécondation des palmiers). (January-April) 1948. Distemper, 17 3/4 x 21 7/8" (45.0 x 55.5 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1320.68. (Photo: Mathews 2022). L.IV, 106
16. An Arab and, under a Tent, a Woman crouching (Femme arabe accroupi sous une tente). (January-April) 1948. Distemper, 17 5/8 x 22" (44.6 x 55.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. E.L.70.636. (Photo: Mathews 5853). L.IV, 128

Ludicrous Landscapes (Paysages grotesques)

17. The Welcomed Visitors (Les visiteurs bienvenus). August 1949. Wash, pen and ink, 9 7/8 x 12 3/4" (24.9 x 32.4 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 241.68. (Photo: RP 2992). L.V, 87 (not reproduced). Repr. Allen, p.5

Metro and Metromania (Métro et Métromanie)

18. Subway (Métro). (September or October) 1949. Incised ink on gesso on cardboard, 12 3/4 x 9 1/4" (32.1 x 23.5 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 243.68. (Photo: RP 2998). L.V, 117. Repr. Allen, p.6
19. Subway (Métro). (September or October) 1949. Incised ink on gesso on cardboard, 12 5/8 x 9 7/8" (32.0 x 24.8 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 242.68. (Photo: RP 2990). L.V, 118. Repr. Allen, p.7

Nudes (Corps de dames)

20. Nude (Corps de dame). (November) 1950. Pen and ink, 10 3/4 x 8 3/8" (27.2 x 21.1 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 245.68. (Photo: RP 2965). L.VI, 168. Repr. Allen, p. 9
21. Nude (Corps de dame). (June-December) 1950. Wash, reed pen and ink, 12 3/4 x 9 7/8" (32.3 x 24.9 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 246.68. (Photo: RP 2982). L.VI, 184. Repr. Allen, p.11

Wasted Landscapes (Paysages desertiques)

22. Façade (Façade). (February?) 1951. Watercolor over gesso, 9 7/8 x 13" (25.0 x 32.9 cm.). The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection. 1772.67. (Photo: Mathews 984). Not recorded by Loreau.

Landscape Tables (Tables paysagées)

23. Table Laden With Objects (Table chargée d'objects). 17 March 1951. Pen, reed pen and ink, 12 3/4 x 10 1/4" (32.4 x 26.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 247.68. (Photo: RP 2968). L.VII, 13. Repr. Allen, p. 20

New York Drawings (Dessins de New York)

24. Woman Ironing a Shirt (Repasseuse de chemise, I). (December 1951), dated 1952. Pencil, pen and ink, 11 3/4 x 9" (29.7 x 22.6 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 249.68. (Photo: RP 2970). L.VII, 109. Repr. Allen, p. 12
25. Bowery Bum. (December) 1951. Reed pen and ink, 12 x 9" (30.4 x 22.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 248.68. (Photo: RP 2973). L.VII, 112. Repr. Selz, p. 60; Allen, p. 13
26. Evolving Portrait (Portrait aux développements). (January) 1952. Reed pen and ink, 18 3/4 x 13 3/4" (47.5 x 34.9 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 250.68. (Photo: RP 2987). L.VII, 162. Repr. Selz, p. 74; Allen, p. 24

Radiant Lands (Terres radieuses)

27. Landscape (Paysage). June 1952. Brush, pen, reed pen and ink on paper mounted on board, 17 7/8 x 23 3/4" (45.3 x 60.2 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 253.68. (Photo: RP 2960) L.VII, 258. Repr. Allen, p. 17
28. Dematerialization (Dématérialisation). June 1952. Pen and ink, 18 3/4 x 23 7/8" (47.5 x 60.6 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 251.68. (Photo: RP 3000). L.VII, 259. Repr. Allen, p. 16

Imprint Assemblages (Assemblages d'empreintes, seconde série)

29. Black Countryside (Terres noires). March 1955. Cut and pasted inked papers, 25 1/4 x 22 7/8" (63.9 x 58.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Peters. 12.56. (Photo: Sumami 14.246, RP 475). L.XI, 13

Carts and Gardens (Charettes, jardins)

30. Post at the Foot of a Wall (Pied du mur au poteau). June 1955. Pencil, 12 5/8 x 9 1/4" (32.0 x 23.5 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 258.68. (Photo: RP 2978). L.XI, 99. Repr. Allen, p. 21
31. The Tree (L'arbre). (c. June) 1955. Wax, wash, pen and ink, 19 5/8 x 12 1/8" (49.8 x 30.6 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 259.68. (Photo: RP 2961). L.XI, 100. Repr. Allen, p. 20

Texturologies: Drawings made with a fine point (Texturologies: Dessins au petit point)

32. Stone Transcription (Transcription aux pierres). (November) 1958. Pen and ink, 14 1/4 x 9 1/8" (36.1 x 23.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 261.68. (Photo: RP 3001). L.XIV, 111. Repr. Allen, p. 22
33. Textural Transcription (Transcription texturologique, I) (November) 1958. Pen and ink, 9 x 14 1/4" (22.9 x 36.2 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 262.68. (Photo: RP 2981). L.XIV, 112. Repr. Allen, p. 23

Did You Pluck the Flower of the Beard? (As-tu cueilli la fleur de barbe?)

34. The Source of the Beard (La Source de barbe). June 1959. Cut and pasted inked papers, 20 x 13 1/2" (50.7 x 34.3 cm.). Collection Mrs. Bertram Smith, New York. XXXX.XX. (Photo: MMA 5930). L.XV, 28

Drawings, 1960 (Dessins, 1960)

35. Figure with a Hat in a Landscape (Personnage au chapeau dans un paysage). August 1960. Pen and ink, 12 x 9 3/8" (30.4 x 23.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 266.68. (Photo: RP 2986). L.XVIII, 172. Repr. Allen, p. 25
36. Landscape with Figure (Paysage avec personnage). August 1960. Pen and ink, 15 5/8 x 12 7/8" (39.7 x 32.7 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 265.68. (Photo: RP 2972). L.XVIII, 183. Repr. Allen, p. 26

Spaces and Sites (Aires et sites)

37. Epidermis (Epiderme). (October) 1960. Brush and ink, 19 7/8 x 26 1/2" (50.5 x 67.2 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1316.68. (Photo: Mathews 2030). L.XVII, 165

Paris Circus

38. Baba Solstice (Baba Solstice). 1 May 1961. Gouache, brush and ink, pencil, 19 3/4 x 26 3/8" (50.0 x 67.0 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1321.68. (Photo: Mathews 2014). L.XIX, 35
39. The Bon Marché Department Store (Le Bon-Marché, II). 5 May 1961. Gouache, brush and ink, pencil, 19 3/4 x 26 3/8" (50.1 x 66.8 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1322.68. (Photo: Mathews 2024). L.XIX, 38
40. Two Automobiles: Ford and Citroën (Deux automobiles: Ford, Citroën). 18 June 1961. Watercolor, wash, pen and ink, 17 1/8 x 13 1/8" (43.3 x 33.5 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1323.68. (Photo: Mathews 2015). L.XIX, 68
41. Street and Sidewalk (Rue et Chaussée). July 1961. Pen and ink, 19 7/8 x 13 1/4" (50.3 x 33.4 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1317.68. (Photo: Mathews 2029). L.XIX, 90

Transfers of Assemblages (Reports d'assemblages)

42. The Sleepwalker (Le Noctambule). 23 April 1961. Cut and pasted lithographed papers, felt pen and ink on acetate, 24 7/8 x 17 3/4" (63.2 x 45.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin in honor of René d'Harnoncourt. 1592.68.1-2. (Photo: Mathews 2845). Maquette for the lithograph of the same title, S.558

43. The Smile (Le sourire, I). 29 April 1961. Cut and pasted lithographed papers, 25 1/16 x 17 11/16" (63.7 x 45.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin in honor of René d'Harnoncourt. 1594.68. (Photo: Mathews 2851). Maquette for the lithograph of the same title, S.561

Episode from "Legends": Exodus (Un épisode des "Légendes": Exodus)

44. Figure, Black Background (Personnage fond noir). 3 October 1961. Brush, pen and ink, 13 1/4 x 9 7/8" (33.5 x 25.0 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 271.68. (Photo: RP 2996). L.XIX, 185. Repr. Allen, frontispiece

"Legends": Landscapes with Figures ("Légendes": Paysages avec personnages)

45. Landscape with Three Figures (Paysage avec trois personnages). (26 November) 1961. Pasted papers, gouache, brush and ink, 21 5/8 x 26 1/8" (54.8 x 66.2 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 273.68. (Photo: RP 2958). L.XIX, 227. Repr. Allen, p. 29
46. Landscape with Three Figures (Paysage avec trois personnages). 5 December 1961. Pasted papers, gouache, brush and ink, 21 5/8 x 26 1/8" (54.8 x 66.2 cm.). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Francis Avnet. 274.68. (Photo: RP 2983). L.XIX, 232. Repr. Allen, p. 28

Figures from "Legends" (Personnages des "Légendes")

47. Figure: Bust (Personnage: buste). (March 13) 1962. Gouache, 10 3/8 x 8 1/8" (26.2 x 20.5 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1324.68. (Photo: Mathews 2031). L.XIX, 310
48. Figure (Personnage). (22 March) 1962. Gouache, brush and ink, 26 3/8 x 13 1/8" (66.8 x 33.3 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1325.68. (Photo: Mathews 2016) L.XIX, 348
49. Meal for Four (Repas à quatre, III). (2 May) 1962. Gouache, brush and ink, 21 1/4 x 15 5/8" (54.0 x 39.6 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1326.68. (Photo: Mathews 2017). L.XIX, 403

"L'Hourloupe," second series

50. Figure (Personnage, XXV). (7 November) 1964. Felt pens, 10 5/8 x 8 3/8" (27.0 x 21.1 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1329.68. (Photo: Mathews 2025). L.XXI, 34

51. Verbal Agreement: Six Figures (Texte putatif: avec six personnages). (4 April) 1966. Felt pens, 10 3/4 x 8 1/4" (27.1 x 20.8 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1330.68. (Photo: Mathews 2027). L.XXI, 337
52. Villa (Villa, IV). (17 April) 1966. Felt pens, 10 3/4 x 8 3/8" (27.4 x 21.1 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1331.68. (Photo: Mathews 2028). L.XXI, 357
53. Stairs (L'Escalier, III). (19 June) 1966. Felt pens, 10 x 6 1/2" (25.0 x 16.5 cm.). Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Colin. 1332.68. (Photo: Mathews 2019). Subsequent to Loreau

October 1972