

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 5

FOR RELEASE: March 12, 1973

AN INVITATION TO SEE: 125 PAINTINGS FROM THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART by Helen M. Franc. 160 pages; 130 color illustrations; clothbound \$9.95. paperbound \$4.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art on March 12, 1973. Distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd.

"AN INVITATION TO SEE: 125 Paintings from The Museum of Modern Art" by Helen M. Franc, will be published by the Museum March 12. The pictures, all reproduced in color, were selected from more than 2000 paintings in what is generally acknowledged to be the world's foremost collection of modern masters and movements from about 1885 to the present day. The pictures, each accompanied by a comment that invites the reader to direct exploration of the specific work, indicate the quality and diversity of the modern achievement in painting.

The artists represented in "AN INVITATION TO SEE" range from such "old masters" of modernism as Degas, Cezanne, and Rousseau to more recent painters such as Pollock, Lichtenstein, and Stella. Their works are not, however, arranged chronologically or grouped in conventional fashion by schools. Instead, they are presented in pairs or sequences that afford opportunities for contrasts and comparisons--sometimes of an unexpected sort. This treatment is intended not only to enhance the reader's enjoyment of the particular works included in the book, but also to encourage him to make further discoveries of his own in The Museum of Modern Art and elsewhere.

Different ways of representing such traditional subjects as portraits, landscapes, still lifes, city views, and allegories are investigated, as well as the many kinds of abstraction that have evolved during the past century. Together, illustrations and comments indicate the conflicting views that modern artists have held regarding what is "real," the relation of art to nature, and the respective roles that emotion and intellect play in creativity. Various ways of portraying reality and fantasy are strikingly revealed, as well as the painters' free experimentation with new mediums and means of expression. The artists' intentions are illuminated by frequent quotations from their own statements or writings of outstanding critics.

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Helen M. Franc, former Editor-in-Chief in the Department of Publications of The Museum of Modern Art, studied art history at Wellesley College and holds graduate degrees from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University and the Sorbonne. She has been associated with the Museum for many years in a number of free-lance assignments before joining its staff in 1954. Previously, she has held positions as Assistant to the Director and Acting Curator of Drawings at The Pierpont Morgan Library, Associate in Education at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Managing Editor of the Magazine of Art, and Associate Editor at Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Among the publications recently issued by the Museum that deal with particular aspects of the painting and sculpture collection are, Three Generations of Twentieth-Century Art: The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection of the Museum of Modern Art; A Salute to Alexander Calder, by Bernice Rose; The Artist as Adversary with an introduction by Betsy Jones; and Picasso in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, by William S. Rubin. Scheduled for publication in the near future is Miro in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, which will accompany the exhibition "Homage to Miro" next fall, in honor of that artist's 80th birthday.

Review copies, black and white photographs and color transparencies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7501.