

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Museum of Modern Art, where members of Local One, Museum Division, Distributive Workers of America are currently on strike, announced today that the Marcel Duchamp retrospective scheduled to open December 5 has been postponed.

The safety of works of art has always been of paramount importance to the Museum. Since the strike would necessitate special arrangements for shipping and delivery, the Museum believes that it would be imprudent to proceed at this time with an exhibition of this extraordinary scope and character. The Museum is continuing to explore the possibility of presenting the exhibition at a later date.

The exhibition was organized jointly by the Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art where it opened in September. It will be extended through December at that institution. It will also be shown at the Chicago Art Institute in 1974.

Since senior curators and registrars are not on strike, nor are any of the unions whose members are responsible for the physical aspects of installation (picture handlers, carpenters, painters, electricians), the Museum is fully capable of installing the exhibition. It is primarily the logistical problems which might be involved in delivering the works which necessitate the postponement. The Museum stated that even the slight possibility that the current circumstances might expose these unique works entrusted to the Museum by lenders from all over the world to any risk has forced this decision.

In place of the Duchamp show, an exhibition from the collection selected and installed by William Rubin, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, will go on view beginning December 17. The exhibition will include many rarely seen works by such masters as Pollock and Rothko and complements the international exhibition of 20th-century painting and sculpture on view on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Other exhibitions on view during the Christmas season include Unfamiliar Places: A Message from Bill Dane, Prints by Giorgio Morandi, Painters for the Theater, Architectural Models, Drawings and Objects from the Collection, and Published in Germany 1923.

The exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Miro will be extended through the holiday season. This show, drawn from the collection and including promised gifts, opened October 10.

The strike by Local One began on October 9. Despite the efforts of the State Mediator, who was called in before the strike, an impasse in negotiations resulted from the union's demand that its jurisdiction be extended to include full curators and associate and assistant department heads whose jobs the Museum considers clearly supervisory and therefore ineligible to be part of the union's bargaining unit. The Museum has urged Local One, without avail, to take the union jurisdictional dispute to the NLRB, the agency charged by Congress with responsibility for determining issues of this nature.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501 and 956-7504.
