

The Museum of Modern Art

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MODERN MASTERS: MANET TO MATISSE

August 4 - September 28, 1975

WALL LABEL

MODERN MASTERS: MANET TO MATISSE, an exhibition conceived for two showings in Australia, was funded by Alcoa Foundation. Australia, like tomorrow, is very near but also very far. Negotiations for loans and the logistics of assembly, framing, conservation, and transport presented numerous problems. The selection was gathered in, and will be dispersed from, New York.

In Sydney and Melbourne, the Visual Arts Board of Australia Council defrayed costs of installation and security for both showings. In addition, the Commonwealth of Australia voted a special indemnity to cover insurance. Such a progressive program to assist museums in organizing international loan exhibitions was pioneered by the government of Great Britain.

Last spring, during the two four-week showings in Sydney and Melbourne, the exhibition was seen by some 400,000 visitors. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the continent's largest daily newspaper, MODERN MASTERS was "quite simply, the most important exhibition ever to visit Australia.... Profound thanks." It was the first time that original works by many of the artists included in the survey had been seen in Australia.

During the preparation of MODERN MASTERS, it was decided that the exhibition should also be seen in New York. Alcoa Foundation, with a second grant, made possible this third and final showing. All lenders graciously extended their loans. Also, two paintings, Picasso's Landscape, La Rue des Bois and Dubuffet's Grand Jazz Band (New Orleans), were generously given to the Museum in New York.

The catalog and poster for the exhibition are available for sale in both bookstores of the Museum.