

The Museum of Modern Art

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PORTRAITS OF EXTRAORDINARY MEN AT MODERN MUSEUM

EXTRAORDINARY MEN, an exhibition of 19 portraits selected from a large number of drawings recently acquired by The Museum of Modern Art will be on view from June 2 through July 17 in an exhibition directed and installed by William S. Lieberman, Director, Department of Drawings.

The earliest drawing (1889) is Gauguin's watercolor of his fellow artist Meyer de Haan, a Hollander who joined him in Brittany as pupil and patron. The most recent drawing (1976) is James Wyeth's gouache, watercolor and pencil likeness of Andy Warhol. Other painters and sculptors represented in the selection are Raoul Housmann, also a poet, Oscar Miestchaninoff, James Rosenquist, and Louis Michel Eilshemius, the last by two portraits both by the same artist, Joseph Stella. Botero, a Colombian; Moholy-Nagy (1917), a Hungarian in Vienna; and Spilliaert, a Belgian, portray themselves.

The occupations of the remaining sitters are varied. Composer Igor Stravinsky was drawn by Giacometti. The photographer Cecil Beaton; Winthrop Parkhurst, an American musicologist; and writers René Bertelé, Iwan Goll and James Joyce appear by different artists. Sonny Summer drawn by Peter Blake is a British wrestler. Monroe Wheeler portrayed by Ben Shahn and Henry Geldzahler by Larry Rivers are museum officials associated, respectively, with The Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Three unusual works are the 1916 portrait by Mark Tobey, gift of Mrs. Wolfgang Schoenborn, and the two portraits by Hans Richter, one of the original members of the Dada group in Zurich who subsequently became "the high priest of experimental film." The reed pen and ink portrait by Dubuffet belongs to a series of likenesses of friends entitled "Portraits: More Beautiful Than They Think." The drawing by Dubuffet is fully titled in French as "René Bertelé écrevisse au sinus."

In mid-July EXTRAORDINARY MEN will be followed by EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN, also a selection of recent acquisitions.

Photographs and additional information available from Bruce Wolmer, Assistant, or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, New York 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7295; 7501.