

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANNE RYAN: THE INTIMATE COLLAGES

An exhibition of 30 collages by artist-writer Anne Ryan (1889-1954), illustrating the full range of her accomplishment in the medium, will be on view in the first-floor Northeast Gallery of The Museum of Modern Art from January 16 through March 6, 1979. ANNE RYAN: THE INTIMATE COLLAGES includes 26 works recently given to the Museum's Department of Drawings by the artist's daughter Elizabeth McFadden (herself an artist represented in the Museum Collection). The exhibition is being directed by Lisa M. Messinger, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Drawings.

Anne Ryan was a master of small intimate collages, which she produced during the last six years of her life (1948-54). Although originally inspired by the collages of Kurt Schwitters, Ryan's mature work reflects an affinity with the work of Mondrian, Klee, and Ad Reinhardt. Her abstract compositions combine geometric structure with a spontaneous, sometimes whimsical, use of materials such as Chinese tea papers, rice papers, bits of gold and silver foil as well as thin, worn materials that have been torn into irregular shapes. While she revels in texture and patterns, her collages are usually monochromatic, featuring subtle pastel tones and gradations of white. Occasionally, vivid colors or black and white predominate. As Ms. Messinger has pointed out, Anne Ryan was above all concerned with the creation of atmosphere.

Anne Ryan was born in New Jersey in 1889 and as a poet and fiction writer was part of the Greenwich Village literary and artistic circle of the 1920s and '30s. With the encouragement of her neighbor Hans Hofmann, Ryan began painting in 1938 (at age 49). She studied printmaking with Stanley William

Hayter in 1941 and began work on her collages after viewing the 1948 Kurt Schwitters memorial exhibition at the Rose Fried Gallery in New York. One of her collages was included in the Museum's 1951 exhibition ABSTRACT PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN AMERICA.

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