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The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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ADVANCE FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: ART OF THE TWENTIES

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, November 17, 1979--January 22, 1980

SPONSOR: This exhibition is being made possible by a grant from SCM Corporation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

DIRECTOR: William S. Lieberman, Director, Department of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art.

CONTENTS: The major exhibition of the Museum's 50th Anniversary Year presents an international survey of the visual arts of the decade 1919-1929. It suggests what could have been the first presentation by the new museum had it chosen to open in November 1929 with a contemporary exhibition.

The period covered by the exhibition was a time when modernism became established as a philosophy and a creed. The exhibition develops major themes of the era such as the city and the machine. It also reflects dominant styles such as Expressionism, Realism, Surrealism, geometric abstraction and Constructivism. The decade saw the birth of the International Style in architecture. It also sustained several contradictory artistic movements, for instance Dada and Purism. In America, it was a time of artistic assimilation and formulation. And, in Germany, the Bauhaus achieved an artistic unity which approached a utopian ideal in spite of overwhelming difficulties.

The contents of the exhibition have been entirely selected from the collections of the six curatorial departments of The Museum of Modern Art. Additional material has been drawn from the Museum's little-known Theater Arts Collection and from the archives of the Library. The survey integrates paintings, sculpture, prints, photographs, posters and projects for the theater. Architectural models and design objects highlight the work of Gropius, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, and Marcel Breuer, among others. Because the Twenties has been called "An Age of Film", a special program of screen classics of the decade accompanies the exhibition, as does a selection of photographs of the period's leading artistic personalities.

Among the many artists represented in the exhibition are:
Beckmann, Brancusi, Chagall, de Chirico, Duchamp, Ernst, Grosz,
Hopper, Klee, Kokoschka, Leger, Lissitzky, Magritte, Man Ray,
Marin, Miro, Moholy-Nagy, Mondrian, Monet, O'Keeffe, Pevsner,
Picabia, Picasso, Rouault, Schwitters, Sheeler, Steichen,
Stieglitz, Tanguy, and Weston.

LECTURE: Three lectures on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. December 12:
"The Context of the 1920s," by E.C. Goosen. January 9:
"One Art, Three Social Meanings," by Professor Carl Schorske.
January 16: "The Brave Discovery," by Peter Bunnell.

BOOK: Art of the Twenties. Edited by William S. Lieberman. 144 pages.
250 black-and-white illustrations. \$8.95 paperbound.

PRESS PREVIEW: Wednesday, November 14, 1979, 10:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC OPENING: Saturday, November 17, 1979