

The Museum of Modern Art

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PORTRAITS OF ARTISTS AND WRITERS AT THE MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES

A portrait gallery of the greatest names in the artistic and literary worlds of the 20th century will be on view at the Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, from May 18 through June 29, 1980. ARTISTS AND WRITERS, directed by William S. Lieberman, former Director of the Museum's Department of Drawings who recently directed the exhibitions A TREASURY OF MODERN DRAWING: THE JOAN AND LESTER AVNET COLLECTION and MEXICAN ART, features 90 drawings (all from the Museum's Collection) depicting such masters of modern culture as Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse, Max Jacob, Willem de Kooning, Bertolt Brecht, James Joyce, Jean Arp, Frank O'Hara, and John Dewey, among others. The exhibition is organized under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, a group of art patrons and collector from 25 countries which sponsors the Museum's international exhibitions program. Venezuela is represented in the Council by Alfredo Boulton, Sra. Eugenio Mendoza, Hans Neumann, Harry Manil and Sra. Reinaldo Herrera.

Portraits of painters done by other artists include Max Beerbohm's drawing of John Singer Sargent, Hans Bellmer's pencil view of Jean Arp, David Parks' watercolor of Richard Diebenkorn, Hans Richter's portrait of his fellow Dadaist Raoul Hausmann, and James Wyeth's portrait of Andy Warhol. Sculptor Alberto Giacometti appears in a drawing by Tal Coat and architect Frederick Kiesler in one by Rene Bouche.

The self-portrait is, of course, a favorite means of artistic expression, and ARTISTS AND WRITERS includes 22 of them. Among other artists representing themselves are Marc Chagall, Marsden Hartley, Orozco, Jules

Pascin and Ben Shahn. Two late self portraits by Matisse, both drawn in 1945, eloquently suggest, in William Lieberman's words, "the rhythmic possibilities of drawing in outline. Without modeling, line alone describes contour."

The depiction of writers by artists is a venerable tradition in the literary and artistic community. Included in the exhibition are Paul Cadmus' portraits of novelists Katherine Ann Porter and Glenway Wescott (the latter, also seen in works by Jean Cocteau and Paul Tchelitchev), Dubuffet's portrait of Joël Bousquet, Juan Gris' drawing of Max Jacob, and Antonio Frasconi's portrait of Brecht. Also on view is a 1953 series by Larry Rivers that depicts the leading figures of what has since come to be known as "the New York School" of poets: John Ashbery, Edwin Denby, Frank O'Hara, and Kenneth Koch. Dada provocateur Tristan Tzara is seen in a work by Sonia Delaunay, her 1923 portrait of him as a monocled dandy. The noted American philosopher John Dewey appears in a drawing done by Matisse at the suggestion of Albert C. Barnes, the great collector of Matisse's paintings. Barnes was a follower of Dewey's and an enthusiast of the latter's book Democracy and Education.

In the exhibition, drawings by Bouche, Chagall and Duchamp are gifts of those artists to the Museum. Also several drawings have been given in honor of friends of the Museum. These memorials honor Anna S. Graff, Rene d'Harnoncourt, Myron Orlofsky, Frank Perls, Paul J. Sachs, Barbara Harrison Wescott, and Shirley Wolfe. Twenty-six of the drawings shown were acquired during the past year.