

The Museum of Modern Art

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PRESS PREVIEW:
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100 of Museum's Finest Drawings to Go on View

THE MODERN DRAWING: 100 WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, which opens to the public on October 29, 1983, will present a historical and critical survey of modern drawing from the Post-Impressionist masters of the 1880's to the generation of artists who achieved artistic maturity in the 1950's. The works in the exhibition, which have been selected by John Elderfield, Director of the Department of Drawings, are taken exclusively from the Museum's rich and diversified collection of over 6,000 unique works on paper, which is widely considered to be the most important of its kind. These 100 works, which will suggest the range, character and intent of the Museum's drawings collection, will remain on view in the Ground Floor Galleries of the Museum's West Wing through January 3, 1984.

The exhibition begins with drawings executed in the late nineteenth century, and ends with works by artists who emerged in the late 1950's such as Rauschenberg and Frankenthaler, artists whose works "have emerged in history to a sufficient extent to comfortably belong" in a survey that begins in the 1880's, according to Mr. Elderfield. The 100 works will present an abridged history of modern drawing as a whole. Works of art on paper executed in the traditional mediums, such as pencil, ink and charcoal, as well as those done in watercolor, pastel, papiers collés and other related forms, will be shown. Today, a "drawing is widely considered to be almost anything that is on paper--and many things that are not," continues Elderfield. Works on paper-based supports, like cardboard, and on new paper-substitute supports,

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like plastic sheet, are therefore to be included in the exhibition. So are two works on canvas: probably the greatest of Miro's pencil drawings, Self-Portrait, I (1937-1938), and one of Braque's most authoritative papiers collés, Clarinet (1913).

The earliest work in the exhibition is a conté crayon drawing by Georges Seurat (Stone Breaker, Le Raincy, c. 1881), and the most recent are Richard Diebenkorn's Untitled (Ocean Park) and Jasper Johns' Savarin, both executed in 1977. All the major modern movements are represented, including Post-Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, Constructivism, Expressionism, Dada and Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, through Post-Painterly Abstraction. Among the artists whose work is included in the exhibition are, in addition to the above-named, Gauguin, Klimt, Matisse, Picasso, Chagall, Kandinsky, Klee, Brancusi, Boccioni, Ernst, Schwitters, Léger, Dali, Motherwell and Pollock. In all, a total of 81 artists will be presented.

Concurrent with the exhibition, the Museum is publishing John Elderfield's THE MODERN DRAWING: 100 WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, a comprehensive study of works on paper by artists of the modern period. The 216-page book will reproduce in color each of the 100 works included in the exhibition, along with detailed commentaries on each plate, analyzing aesthetic issues intrinsic to the individual work and the relationship of these works to those in other media. Hardcover: \$37.50; paperback \$16.50 (after January 3, 1984, \$18.50).

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