

102
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURES

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces the acquisition of ten paintings, thirteen drawings and two sculptures which will be put on public exhibition at the Museum, Monday, June 9. The paintings will be shown in the New Acquisitions Gallery which the Museum has recently set aside on the first floor for the exhibition of additions to its Collection as they are acquired from time to time. The newly acquired drawings and sculptures in the present group will be shown in the Graphic Arts Gallery on the third floor.

The paintings include gifts and purchases of work by masters of the School of Paris--Rouault, Derain, Vlaminck, Braque, Lurcat, Miro and by several younger painters. The acquisition of a dozen American paintings was announced two months ago.

Outstanding among the paintings is a portrait in oil by Rouault never before exhibited in New York. The subject, Henri Lebasque, is a French artist of Rouault's generation noted for painting many public decorations, including some in the liner Paris. Although Rouault usually expresses himself through types rather than through individual characterization, this portrait of a friend loses none of the artist's ability to express tragic power.

The Rouault painting and an oil, the Beach at Dieppe, by Braque have been acquired through the Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund. The Braque was formerly in the collection of the Frankfort Museum but was "purged" at Hitler's order. It has never before been exhibited in America.

The well known English painter, Stanley Spencer, is represented in the new acquisitions by The Nursery, a gift to the Museum from the Contemporary Art Society of London, which for many years has bought the work of modern English painters and presented them to

The Tate and other galleries throughout England. This purchase was made in 1936 from a one-man gallery show during the first week of which fifteen of Spencer's canvases were sold. Spencer is best known for his religious paintings, among which is the huge Resurrection in the Tate Gallery, one of the most famous English pictures of the 20th century.

The marble sculpture by Hugo Robus, Girl Washing Her Hair, was commissioned by the Museum, which exhibited the plaster version two years ago in its exhibition Art In Our Time. The figure of the girl, leaning over and lifting her long streaming hair, forms a smooth arc reflected in a mirror-like sheet of metal upon which the figure rests. The grimacing face furnishes the clue to the sculptor's irreverent title, Soap in Her Eye.

The other sculpture, Children on the Beach, injects a note of humor into the new group of acquisitions. It is constructed of plumber's hanger iron, galvanized wire cloth, screening and various ornaments. It is by Toni Hughes, the young American woman who recently, and accidentally, discovered a talent in herself for fantastic sculpture, principally in outline, of gay and characteristic figures, usually children, or period personalities such as the beaux and belles of the gay nineties, the Gibson era, and other easily recognized flora and fauna Americana.

The thirteen drawings are the gifts of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Edward M. M. Warburg. With the exception of Gaston Lachaise, who was born in Paris but became an American citizen, the drawings are all by foreign sculptors. All but one of them are represented by sculptures in the Museum's Collection. The one exception is Eric Gill, the English sculptor who died last year and whose Torso is on extended loan to the Museum and at present on exhibition in the Museum's sculpture garden.

The acquisitions are as follows:

PAINTINGS - New Acquisitions Gallery, 1st floor

BLATAS, Arbit. (Lithuanian, born 1908):

Three Children, 1938, oil, 39 1/2 x 13 5/8 inches
Gift of the French Art Galleries, Inc., New York

BRAQUE, Georges. (French, born 1881):

Beach at Dieppe, 1928, oil, 10 3/4 x 18 1/8 inches

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

In 1928 Braque, who for nearly twenty years had confined himself principally to still life and figure compositions, painted a series of small beach scenes, of which this is one of the finest.

DERAIN, André. (French, born 1880):

Torso, 1918-20, oil on cardboard, 30 x 21 3/8 inches

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

This torso was done just after the war at a time when Derain was assuming a position of leadership among younger artists who found in his work the classic French tradition of Courbet and Corot.

The Museum has, in addition, four landscapes, a head and a still life by Derain.

JUNKERS, Adja Madlain. (Born Latvia, 1900. Lives in Sweden):

Black Candle in a Blue Room, 1939, gouache

18 7/8 x 13 3/8 inches

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

LURCAT, Jean. (French, born 1892):

Enchanted Isle, about 1928, oil, 15 1/4 x 24 1/8 inches

Gift of Bernard Davis, Philadelphia

MIRO, Joan. (Spanish, born 1893):

The Ear of Grain, 1922-23, oil, 14 7/8 x 18 1/8 inches

The Carbide Lamp, 1922-23, oil, 15 x 18 inches

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

ROUAULT, Georges. (French, born 1871):

Portrait of Lebasque, 1917, oil, 36 1/4 x 29 1/8 inches

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

Among Rouault's oil paintings this portrait is unusual for its broad, fluid brushwork and for its sense of personality. Rouault's tragic power is ordinarily expressed through types rather than through individualized characterization. The subject of this portrait, the French painter Lebasque, became acquainted with Vlaminck, Rouault and Maurice Denis at the time of the "fauves" exhibition about 1905, and experimented with them in painting pottery.

SPENCER, Stanley. (English, born 1891):

The Nursery, 1936, oil, 30 1/4 x 36 1/8 inches

Gift of the Contemporary Art Society, London

Stanley Spencer, the seventh son of the musician William Spencer who was the father of eleven children, was born at Cookham, near London and studied at the Slade School in London just before the war of 1914-18. His work, often strikingly original in subject and composition, suggests a curious, disturbing innocence of spirit and naive sense of humor of which he himself is totally unaware. The Nursery has been interpreted as a picture of the artist when a child building a psychological barrier of paper as a protection against his older sisters. Spencer served in the war of 1914-18 in the ambulance corps in Macedonia. He emerged from this experience with two canvases depicting scenes of wounded which first showed his modern individualism.

VLAMINCK, Maurice de. (French, born 1876):

Winter Landscape, oil, 21 1/4 x 25 1/2 inches

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hochschild, New York

An early picture, possibly about 1913.

SCULPTURE AND SCULPTORS' DRAWINGS - Graphic Arts
Gallery, 3rd floor

HUGHES, Toni. (American. born 1906):

Children on the Beach, 1940, plumber's hanger iron, galvanized wire cloth, screening and various ornaments, 24 1/2 inches high

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

ROBUS, Hugo (American, born 1885):

Girl Washing Her Hair, 1940, marble, 17 inches high
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund

The following drawings have been given by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.:

DESPIAU, Charles. (French, born 1874):

Seated Nude, pencil and red conté crayon, 15 x 10 inches
Despiau's Seated Youth and Assia are shown in the
sculpture garden; two portrait heads in the adjoining
sculpture galleries.

GILL, Eric. (English, 1882-1940):

Nude Standing, 1928, pencil, 15 1/2 x 11 5/8 inches
A large stone torso by Gill is shown in the
sculpture garden.

KOLBE, Georg. (German, born 1877):

Nude, pencil and brown wash, 19 1/4 x 14 5/8 inches
Nude Kneeling, black crayon, 19 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches
A bronze and a terra cotta by Kolbe are shown in
the sculpture galleries.

LEHMBRUCK, Wilhelm. (German, 1881-1919):

Standing Nude, black crayon, 17 1/8 x 10 3/8 inches
Three figures by Lehmbruck including his master-
piece, Kneeling Woman, are shown in the sculpture
galleries.

The first two of the following group of drawings have been
given by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the last six have been
given by Edward M. M. Warburg.

LACHAISE, Gaston. (American, born Paris 1882; died New
York, 1935):

The colossal Floating Woman by Lachaise is shown at
the east end of the sculpture garden; a head and a
torso in the sculpture galleries.

Head, red crayon, 17 7/8 x 13 1/4 inches

Standing Nude with Drapery, black crayon and pencil,
10 3/8 x 7 1/2 inches

Seated Woman with Drapery, pencil and ink wash,
24 1/2 x 19 inches

Figure, pencil and ink wash " " " "

Figure, pencil " " " "

Standing Woman, pencil " " " "

Woman, pencil " " " "

Standing Woman, pencil " " " "