

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

October 16, 1941.

TO ~~Art~~ Editors
City Editors
Dance Editors

Dear Sirs:

You are invited to attend or send a representative to

A PRESS PREVIEW
of two small exhibitions

MODERN PRIMITIVES
and
ISADORA DUNCAN: Drawings, Photographs,
Memorabilia

Tuesday afternoon, October 21
from 2 to 6 P.M.

at the Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 St., New York.

Both these exhibitions will be opened to the public Wednesday morning, October 22, and will remain on view for an indefinite period.

The exhibition of Modern Primitives will include ten new acquisitions which the Museum will announce at the press preview.

For any further information please telephone me at Circle 5-8900.

Sincerely,

Sarah Newmeyer

Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS NEW SERIES OF GALLERIES
WITH TEN NEW ACQUISITIONS OF MODERN PRIMITIVES

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, is making a new installation of its Collection and will open the first newly arranged gallery Wednesday, October 22, with an exhibition of Modern Primitives: Artists of the People, including ten new acquisitions. With these acquisitions the Museum's group of modern primitives becomes the finest and most representative Museum collection of its kind in the world.

The new acquisitions are by men of various humble occupations, who have painted in their spare time or after they had been pensioned. For the most part self taught and with little education they have won the admiration of leading artists and art critics because of the simplicity and deep conviction of their art. In the list which follows, the original occupation of the painter is given.

BAUCHANT, André (born 1873). French gardener.
Cleopatra's Barge (1939)
 oil, 32" x 39 3/8"

BOMBOIS, Camille (born 1883). A French laborer and circus strong man.
Before Entering the Ring (1930-35)
 oil, 23 5/8" x 28 3/4"

HIRSHFIELD, Morris (born Russian Poland, 1872).
 American; formerly in the cloak and suit business in Brooklyn
Tiger, 1940, oil, 28" x 39 7/8"
Girl in a Mirror, 1940, oil, 40 1/8" x 22 1/4"

HUNT, ("Pa") Edward C. (1870-1934). American sportsman.
 Toward the end of his life he was a "character" of Provincetown, where he died in 1934.
Peter Hunt's Antique Shop (1930-34) oil, 20" x 30 1/8"

PAPSDORF, Fred (born 1883). American; Detroit milkman.
Flowers in Vase, 1940, oil, 18 1/4" x 14 1/4"

PEYRONNET, Dominique-Paul (born 1872). French printer and lithographer.
The Ferryman of the Moselle (c.1935) oil, 35" x 45 5/8"

SANTO, Patsy (born Italy, 1894). American; house painter of Bennington, Vermont.
Spring, 1940, oil, 24 1/8" x 18 1/8"

SULLIVAN, Patrick J. (born 1894). American house painter and steel mill worker of Wheeling, West Virginia.
A Hunting He Would Go, 1940, oil, 26 1/4" x 36 1/8"

(The above nine paintings were acquired by the Museum through the Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund)

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WALLIS, Alfred (English, born 1855). Fisherman of Cornwall.

Cornish Port (c.1932-33) oil on cardboard,
10 1/8" x 12 3/8". Gift of Ben Nicholson

In announcing the new acquisitions Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,
director of the Museum, said:

"For more than a dozen years the Museum has been building up its collection of modern art but until recently almost all its gallery space has been devoted to temporary loan exhibitions. Last spring, to bring this unbalanced policy to an end, the third floor galleries were set aside for the exhibition of that part of the Museum Collection which includes painting, sculpture and graphic arts. During the summer, paintings from the Collection were hung in a temporary manner but this provisional installation is now being carefully revised.

"The first gallery of the newly installed Museum Collection is now open to the public. It is devoted to the work of the artists most often labeled Modern Primitives or Artists of the People. They are sometimes called by other names--naives, amateurs, self-taught, folk or popular artists, Sunday painters, instinctives--names which, though none is really satisfactory, throw some light on the character of their art.

"The Modern Primitives have been chosen to open the series of new galleries for two reasons: first because, with the ten new acquisitions, it is the finest and most representative group of its kind in any museum in the world, and secondly because it seems the best introduction to a general survey of modern painting such as the Museum Collection will eventually present.

"For these 20th century primitives belong to no movement or 'ism'. They work in no tradition either technical or esthetic. All of them earn or earned their living as ordinary men, postmen, milkmen, house painters, circus performers, customs officials, fishermen, farmers, printers, ditch diggers or mill hands. Yet they are not ordinary men, for they love painting and taught themselves to paint with little or no instruction, without the fellowship of other artists, often without even the sympathy of their friends. More important than this, they excelled at painting to such a degree that they have won the admiration of professional artists of the highest standing.

"The Modern Primitives, though each developed in personal isolation, seem international in character even more than their professionally trained colleagues. It is hard to tell a French primitive from an American. All share the common denominator of Western culture at its most democratic level and all express the straightforward, innocent and convincing vision of the common man, ignorant of art or unaffected by it.

"The Modern Primitives gallery is introduced by an alcove of 19th century American folk painting and sculpture given by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. some years ago and the collection comes to a climax in Henri Rousseau's Sleeping Gypsy of 1897, the gift of Mrs. Simon R. Guggenheim. But the bulk of the painting was done during our own century, most of it by men still living: Bauchant, Bombois, Peyronnet, Vivin of France; Wallis of England; Sullivan, Santo, Hirshfield, Kane and Pickett of the United States."

The new installation of the Museum's Collection includes illustrated explanatory labels which are presented in such way that the labels will not interfere with visual enjoyment of the paintings. The exhibition of Modern Primitives will be on public view for an indefinite period.

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MODERN PRIMITIVES: Artists of the People

Opening October 21, 1941
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53rd St.
New York City

Gallery No. 1. Museum Collection (Department of Painting and Sculpture)
(Not all of the below will be exhibited at all times)

BARELA, Patrocino. American, born 1908.

The Coronation of the Virgin. 1936. Pine, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high.
Lent by the WPA Art Program.

BAUCHANT, André. French, born 1873.

Cleopatra's Barge. 1939. Oil on canvas, 32 x 39-3/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

BOMBOIS, Camille. French, born 1883.

Before Entering the Ring. (1930-35). Oil on canvas, 23-5/8 x 28-3/4".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

CANADÉ, Vincent. American, born Italy 1879.

Self Portrait. (c.1926). Oil on canvas over composition board.
18-5/8 x 14". Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

CERVANTEZ, Pedro. American, born 1915.

Croquet Ground. 1936. Oil on composition board, 19-3/4 x 28-3/4".
Lent by the WPA Art Program.

HIRSHFIELD, Morris. American, born Russian Poland 1872.

Tiger. 1940. Oil on canvas, 28 x 39-7/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

Girl in a Mirror. 1940. Oil on canvas, 40-1/8 x 22-1/4".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

HOYER, Thorvald Arenst. American, born Denmark, 1872.

Inside the Barn. 1937. Oil on canvas, 30-1/8 x 24-1/8".
Lent by the WPA Art Program.

HUNT, "Pa" (Edward C.). American, 1870-1934.

Peter Hunt's Antique Shop. (1930-34). Oil on canvas, 20 x 30-1/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

KANE, John. American, 1860-1934.

Through Coleman Hollow Up the Allegheny Valley. Oil on canvas.
30 x 38-5/8". Given anonymously.

Self Portrait. (1929). Oil on panel, 36-1/2 x 27-1/2".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

Homestead. Oil on canvas, 24 x 27".
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Monongahela River Valley. 1931. Oil on canvas, 28 x 38".
Lent by Miss Adelaide M. McGroot.

From My Studio Window. 1932. Oil on canvas, 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
Lent by Miss Adelaide M. McGroot.

LEBDUSKA, Lawrence. American, born 1894.

The Monastery Farm, Rhode Island. (1936). Oil on rubberized cloth,
28 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 38". Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

PAPSDORF, Fred. American, born 1883.

Flowers in Vase. 1940. Oil on canvas, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

PEYRONNET, Dominique-Paul. French, born 1872.

The Ferryman of the Moselle. (c.1936?). Oil on canvas, 35 x 45-5/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

PICKETT, Joseph. American, 1848-1918.

Manchester Valley. (Probably 1914-18). Oil on canvas, 45 x 60".
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

ROUSSEAU, Henri. French, 1844-1910.

The Sleeping Gypsy. 1897. Oil on canvas, 51 x 79".
Gift of Mrs. Simon Guggenheim.

Jungle with a Lion. Oil on canvas, 14-3/4 x 18".
Lillie P. Bliss Collection.

SANTO, Patsy. American, born Italy 1894.

Spring. 1940. Oil on canvas, 24-1/8 x 18-1/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

SULLIVAN, Patrick J. American, born 1894.

A Hunting He Would Go. (1940). Oil on canvas, 26-1/4 x 36-1/8".
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

VIVIN, Louis. French, 1861-1936.

Church of St. Laurent and the Gare de l'Est. Oil on canvas.
18 x 24". Gift of Mrs. Saidie A. May.

WALLIS, Alfred. English, born 1855.

Cornish Port. (c.1932-33). Oil on cardboard, 10-1/8 x 12-3/8".
Gift of Ben Nicholson.

19th Century American Folk and Popular Art, gifts of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

HICKS, Edward. American, 1780-1849.

The Residence of David Twining in 1787. (Probably after 1811).
Oil on canvas, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The Peaceable Kingdom. (c.1833). Oil on canvas, 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

19th Century American Folk and Popular Art (Cont'd.)

UNKNOWN

The Quilting Party. (1840-1850). Oil on wood, 13-1/4 x 25-1/4".

Glass Bowl with Fruit. (c.1820). Watercolor with tinsel, 17 x 13-3/4".

Baby in Red High Chair. (c.1790). Oil on canvas, 21 1/2 x 14-3/4".

Eagle. Wood, 68 inches high.

Horse (weathervane). Cast iron, 18 inches high.

Henry Ward Beecher. (1850-1860). Wood, 21 inches high.

Fish (weathervane). Stamped and cut-out copper, 35 1/2 inches long.