AN EXHIBITION OF EXCEPTIONAL MODERN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE GIVEN TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART BY FLORENE MAY SCHOENBORN OPENS THIS MONTH

Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest
February 6–March 11, 1997

An exhibition of 17 remarkable works of art given to The Museum of Modern Art by Florene May Schoenborn is on view at the Museum from February 6 through March 11, 1997. Highlighting the rich legacy of Mrs. Schoenborn’s generosity both during her lifetime and in her recent bequest, *Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest* features paintings by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Pierre Bonnard, Fernand Léger, Georges Braque, Joan Miró, and Chaim Soutine and sculptures by Alberto Giacometti and Isamu Noguchi. Mrs. Schoenborn, who was a longtime MoMA benefactor and Life Trustee of the Museum, died in August 1995.

“The Matisse paintings Mrs. Schoenborn gave to this Museum during her lifetime already constituted one of the most significant donations ever made to our collection,” said Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, who organized the exhibition. “The addition now of two unrivaled early masterpieces by Picasso, a superb late Bonnard, a great early portrait by Miró, and several other superior paintings and sculptures further increases the luster of this wonderful history of generous and discerning patronage. While she was alive and now through her bequest, Mrs. Schoenborn demonstrated in the most enduring way her devotion to and respect for The Museum of Modern Art, and we in turn remember her with great affection and gratitude.”

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The exhibition is on view on the second floor in the Florene May Schoenborn Gallery, which was named in Mrs. Schoenborn’s honor in 1986, in recognition of her gift of five superb paintings by Matisse: *Moroccan Garden* (1912), *The Moroccans* (1915–16), *Woman on a High Stool* (1914), *Artist and Goldfish* (1914), and *Variation on a Still Life by de Heem* (1915). All of these paintings were featured in the Museum’s landmark 1992 exhibition *Henri Matisse: A Retrospective* and are included in the current exhibition.

A number of the works in this exhibition were also seen in the Museum’s 1965 traveling exhibition *The School of Paris: Paintings from the Florene May Schoenborn and Samuel A. Marx Collection* (Mr. Marx was Mrs. Schoenborn’s second husband). In his introduction to the exhibition’s catalogue, James Thrall Soby wrote: “The works of art in this collection have been chosen with the rapt concentration of diamond cutters. . . . The result is a collection of such authority that it would be difficult to think of its rival among private collections of modern art.”

During her lifetime, Mrs. Schoenborn gave the Museum many significant paintings, drawings, sculptures, and prints. Her bequest has brought 14 additional important works to MoMA’s permanent collection. Among these are Picasso’s *Woman Plaiting Her Hair* (1906) and *Woman with Pears* (1909), Bonnard’s *Nude in Bathroom* (1932), Léger’s *The City* (1919), and Giacometti’s *Tall Figure, Half-Size* (1947). A complete list of works included in the exhibition is attached.

An exhibition of Mrs. Schoenborn’s gifts and bequests to The Metropolitan Museum of Art will be on view there from February 11 through May 4, 1997.

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Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest

Pierre Bonnard
_Nude in Bathroom, 1932_
Oil on canvas
47 5/8 x 46 1/2" (121 x 118.1 cm)

Georges Braque
_Yellow Tablecloth, 1935_
Oil on canvas
45 1/8 x 57 5/8" (114.6 x 146.4 cm)

Alberto Giacometti
_Head, 1928_
Bronze
15 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 2 1/2" (39.3 x 36.8 x 6.3 cm)

Alberto Giacometti
_Tall Figure, Half-Size, 1947_
Bronze
52 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 12" (132.1 x 19.1 x 30.5 cm)

Fernand Léger
_The City, 1919_
Oil on canvas
38 1/8 x 51 3/8" (96.8 x 130.5 cm)

Henri Matisse
_Moroccan Garden, 1912_
Oil, pencil, and charcoal on canvas
46 x 32 1/4" (116.8 x 82.5 cm)

Henri Matisse
_Woman on a High Stool (Germaine Raynal), 1914_
Oil on canvas
57 7/8 x 37 5/8" (147 x 95.5 cm)

Henri Matisse
_ARTIST AND GOLDFISH, 1914_
Oil on canvas
57 3/4 x 44 1/4" (146.5 x 112.4 cm)

Henri Matisse
_Variation on a Still Life by de Heem, 1915_
Oil on canvas
71 1/4" x 73" (180.9 x 220.8 cm)

Henri Matisse
_The Moroccans, 1915–16_
Oil on canvas
71 3/8" x 92" (181.3 x 279.4 cm)

Joan Miró
_Portrait of E. C. Ricart, 1917_
Oil and pasted paper on canvas
32 1/4 x 25 7/8" (81.9 x 65.7 cm)

Isamu Noguchi
_My Pacific (Polynesian Culture), 1942_
Driftwood
39 1/4 x 19 x 13" (99.7 x 48.3 x 33 cm)

Pablo Picasso
_Woman Plaiting Her Hair, 1906_
Oil on canvas
49 5/8 x 35 3/4"(126 x 90.8 cm)

Pablo Picasso
_Woman's Head, 1908_
Oil on canvas
28 7/8 x 23 3/4" (73.3 x 60.3 cm)

Pablo Picasso
_Woman with Pears, 1909_
Oil on canvas
36 1/4 x 28 7/8" (92.1 x 73.3 cm)

Pablo Picasso
_Woman in an Armchair, 1941_
Oil on canvas
36 1/4 x 28 7/8" (92.1 x 73.3 cm)

Chaim Soutine
_Man in a Green Coat, c. 1921_
Oil on canvas
35 x 21 7/8" (88.9 x 55.6 cm)