

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTE: The Museum will be closed all day Christmas. It will be open on New Year's Day as on Sundays, from 1 to 7 P.M.

GRANT WOOD'S AMERICAN GOTHIC ADDED TO PORTRAIT SHOW

AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Grant Wood's famous painting American Gothic has been added to the exhibition of Twentieth Century Portraits, which opened at the Museum on December 9 and which will be on view through January 24. This is the painting which caused so much controversy, particularly among Iowans, who considered it a devastating, satirical portrait of the natives of that State. Grant Wood, who had not intended it as such, cleared himself of the charge by stating that his sister and his dentist had posed for the painting in which the artist simply intended to portray vigorous, purposeful Americans. The Museum will show a photograph of Grant Wood's sister and his dentist at the side of the painting.

American Gothic has been lent by the Art Institute of Chicago. Although it was planned from the beginning to include this painting in the exhibition, it could not be shown at the opening as it was then on view at the Grant Wood Memorial Exhibition held at the Art Institute of Chicago. It will remain in the Portrait show until it closes.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OPENS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Children's Festival of Modern Art held at the Museum last March has been opened again for the holiday season. Children from three to twelve years of age are welcome to visit it from Noon to 5:30 P.M. every day except Sunday when it is open from 1 to 5:30 P.M. It is built to child's scale with paintings by Chagall, Bombois, Cassatt, Renoir hung at child's eye level.

The Festival is a gala combination of pictures, sculpture, toys and games to interest children in modern art through observation and activity. The play area in the center of the gallery is divided into two sections, one for children from three to six, the other for children from seven to twelve. There children may paint, draw, make constructions or play with the nursery animals designed by Alexander Calder whose mobiles hang from the ceiling.

The Festival will remain open through Sunday, January 17.