

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION OF LARGE SCALE MODERN PAINTINGS

OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Twenty canvases, the smallest of which is over six feet long, comprise an exhibition of large scale painting in the twentieth century which opens at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday, April 2. The exhibition will remain on view in the third floor galleries through May 4 and was directed by Margaret Miller of the Museum staff. Artists from Europe, Latin America and the United States are represented in the exhibition which includes paintings by Picasso, Bonnard, Stella, Leger, Matisse, Siqueiros, Chagall, Miro, Beckmann and Ben Shahn.

In spite of the shrinkage of modern living space, which would seem to make large paintings an anachronism, twentieth century artists have continued to paint uncommissioned canvases of mural scale as well as commissioned large scale oils or wall painting for specific private houses or public buildings. The exhibition will examine the function, purpose and possibilities of these large scale paintings in contemporary culture. It will emphasize the ~~un~~commissioned painting, undertaken without thought of its eventual destination. Extremes have been chosen in the selection of the paintings showing the artists at their freest and most daring, or most disciplined, austere and uncompromising.

Commenting on large scale modern painting, Miss Miller says:

"Big pictures at their best are assertions of the artist's self-confidence and esthetic conviction, affirmations of his belief in the importance of painting itself.

"The exhibition is intended to show some of the functions which large scale paintings may fill, some of the styles in which they have been painted, some of the kinds of experiences or subjects which they incorporate. The open vistas of the installations have therefore the double value of isolating over half the paintings in the exhibition, yet permitting a cross-wall play of assertions between similar and opposite paintings."

LARGE SCALE MODERN PAINTINGS

CHECK LIST

1. Pablo Picasso: LES DEMOISELLES D'AVIGNON. 1906-07. Oil on canvas, 8' x 7'8". Museum of Modern Art, acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest.
2. Pierre Bonnard: L'ÉTÉ. c. 1910. Oil on canvas, 8'6" x 11'5 7/8". Lent by Georges Maratier, Paris.
3. Carlo Carrà: BURIAL OF THE ANARCHIST GALLI. 1908. 6'6 1/2" x 8'5 3/4". Lent by Paul R. Citroen, Amsterdam.
4. Joseph Stella: BROOKLYN BRIDGE. 1917. Oil and lithographic crayon on poplin, 7'1" x 6'3". Lent by Societe Anonyme, Yale University Art Gallery.
5. Fernand Leger: COMPOSITION. 1917-18. Oil on canvas, 8'2" x 6'. Lent by Mrs. Meric Gallery.
6. Henri Matisse: WOMEN AT A SPRING. 1916-17. Oil on canvas, 8'7" x 12'10". Lent by Mrs. Paul Guillaume, Paris.
7. Pablo Picasso: THREE MUSICIANS. 1925. Oil on canvas, 6'8" x 7'4". Private Collection, on extended loan to the Museum of Modern Art.
8. Fernand Leger: COMPOSITION WITH TWO PARROTS. 1935-39. Oil on canvas, 13'3/4" x 15'9 1/2". Lent by Mrs. Meric Gallery.
9. Ben Shahn: THE PASSION OF SACCO AND VANZETTI. 1932. Oil and tempera emulsion on canvas, 7' x 4'. Lent by the Downtown Gallery.
10. David Alfaro Siqueiros: PROLETARIAN VICTIM. 1933. Duco on burlap, 6'9" x 3'11 1/2". Museum of Modern Art, gift of the Estate of George Gershwin.
11. Marc Chagall: I AND THE VILLAGE. 1911. Oil on canvas, 6'3 5/8" x 4'11 5/8". Museum of Modern Art, Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund.
12. Henri Matisse: PIANO LESSON. 1916. Oil on canvas, 8'1 1/2" x 6'11 3/4". Museum of Modern Art, Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund.
13. Pablo Picasso: THE THREE DANCERS. 1925. Oil on canvas, 7' x 4'8". Museum of Modern Art, extended loan from the artist.
14. Wifredo Lam: THE JUNGLE. 1943. Gouache on paper mounted on canvas, 7'10 1/4" x 7'6 1/2". Museum of Modern Art, Inter-American Fund.
15. Joan Miro: ANIMATED LANDSCAPE. 1927. Oil on canvas, 4'3" x 6'4". Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Matisse.
16. Jackson Pollock: MURAL. 1943. Oil on canvas, 7'11 3/4" x 19'9 1/2". Lent by Art of This Century.
17. Rafael Moreno: PARADISE. 1943. Oil on canvas, 3'3" x 6'5 1/2". Museum of modern Art, on extended loan from Henry Church.
18. Balthus: THE MOUNTAIN. (SUMMER). 1937. Oil on canvas, 8'2 1/4" x 11'11 5/8". Lent by Pierre Matisse Gallery.
19. Matta: "BEING WITH". 1946. Oil on canvas, 7'4 1/2" x 15'. Lent by Pierre Matisse Gallery.
20. Marc Chagall: SELF-PORTRAIT WITH A WINEGLASS. 1917. Oil on canvas, 7'8 1/2" x 4'6". Lent by the artist.
21. Max Beckmann: BLINDMAN'S BUFF. 1945. Oil on canvas; triptych, central panel, 6'8 7/8" x 7'6 3/4"; side panels, 6'3 1/2" x 3'7 1/2". Lent by Buchholz Gallery.