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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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DRAWING COLLECTION SHOWN BY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The first major exhibition of drawings owned by the Museum of Modern Art will be presented when DRAWINGS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION opens to the public Wednesday, April 16 in the first floor galleries of the Museum, 11 West 53 Street. The exhibition consists of 142 drawings selected from the Museum's collection of over 230 works. The drawings shown are chiefly by twentieth century artists but important nineteenth century works are also included. Most importantly represented in either the nineteenth or twentieth century groups is Seurat whose five crayon drawings bequeathed to the Museum by Miss Lillie P. Bliss together with a drawing on extended loan constitute probably the finest group by this master in any museum.

Other artists represented in the exhibition include the following Europeans, some of whom now reside permanently in this country: Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Derain, Segonzac, Modigliani, Pascin, Tchelitchev, Berman, Dali, Oelze, Kirchner, Hofer, Grosz, Cagli, Delaunay, Ozenfant, Léger, Kandinsky, Arp, Masson, Miro, Ernst, Tanguy, de Chirico, Rodin, Despiiau, Gaudier-Brzeska, Lipchitz, and Barlach. American artists shown include, from the United States: Glackens, Kuhn, Karfiol, Weber, Zorach, Sterne, Kuniyoshi, O'Keeffe, Sheeler, Lebrun, Blume, Siporin, Gorky, Pereira, Graves, Lachaise, and Flannagan; from Mexico: Orozco, Rivera, Guerrero Galván, Meza; from Brazil: Portinari; from Cuba: Carreño, Martínez Pedro, Peláez; from Chile: Matta.

The exhibition has been arranged in an informal sequence beginning with more or less traditional styles, followed by cubist, abstract and surrealist works and concluding with a group of sculptors' drawings. A number of nineteenth century American "folk" drawings are shown on the second floor; also on the second floor, among the Museum's collection of paintings, are several oils and water colors by Klee and Miro which are essentially drawings.

The exhibition has been arranged by Alfred H. Barr, Jr. and Dorothy C. Miller, Director and Curator respectively of the Museum Collections. A catalog, Drawings in the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, edited by Mr. Barr will be published shortly. It will

contain approximately one hundred plates accompanied by notes on the drawings illustrated. Mr. Barr comments on the exhibition as follows:

"This is the first general exhibition of the Museum's drawings although the collection is now nearly eighteen years old. In fact, a drawing was one of the first works of art actually acquired by the Museum. In November 1929, the same month the Museum first opened its doors to the public, Professor Paul J. Sachs of Harvard bought the Portrait of Anna Peter by George Grosz and presented it to the Museum.

"For five years thereafter the drawing collection remained virtually static although other divisions of the Museum Collection were enriched by gifts of excellent American paintings and European sculptures. In 1934, however, the bequest of the Museum's late Vice-President, Miss Lillie P. Bliss, added a number of nineteenth century French drawings, above all the superb constellation of Seurat crayons which remain today the most remarkable representation of a single artist in the collection.

"In 1935 and again in 1940 Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. presented to the Museum groups of drawings from her own collection, gifts totaling over 75 works, most of them by American artists but including a few excellent European and Mexican drawings. It was also Mrs. Rockefeller who, in 1935, provided funds with which the first purchases of drawings were made, though none of these purchases and only five of the drawings given by her bear her name. More than twenty other donors have generously added drawings to the collection and many purchases have been made from funds given by Mrs. Simon Guggenheim and Nelson A. Rockefeller within the past ten years.

"The collection can make no pretense of offering a complete review of modern draftsmanship. Drawings by van Gogh, Lautrec, Gauguin and better works by Cézanne and Rodin should be added to the group of Seurats. Among twentieth century European masters, Rouault, Bonnard, Dufy, Gris, Klee and Kokoschka are among the conspicuously absent; Matisse, Maillol, Picasso, Léger, Beckmann, Miro should be represented more fully. The American drawings are more numerous but many good artists are represented inadequately or not at all. In time, with additions and subtractions, the collection may be greatly improved. As it now stands it is probably more comprehensive within its field than that of any other museum."

The following notes on the entire DRAWING COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART may be of interest:

- 233 drawings are listed in the Museum Collection (others of less interest are in the Museum's Study Collection).
- All but 11 are twentieth century drawings.
- 16 nations are represented.
- Strongest national groups in number of drawings are: U.S.A. (102), France (41), Mexico (19), Germany (19), Italy (15), Spain (11, all expatriates).
- There are drawings by 43 American artists, 36 European, 15 Latin American.
- 87 drawings are purchases (made since 1935).
- 146 are gifts.

Artists represented by groups of drawings:

- BOCCIONI: 3 large drawings for his famous futurist triptych States of Mind (1911)
- BLUME: 7 including 3 studies for The Eternal City
- DE CHIRICO: 7 drawings covering the iconography of his influential "metaphysical period" 1916-1918
- GRAVES: 4 drawings called "Nightfall Pieces," fantastic chairs inspired by the Munich "appeasement" conference of 1938
- GROSZ: 3 drawings
- LACHAISE: 17 drawings
- MALEVICH: 4 drawings by the pioneer Russian master of abstract art and painter of the famous White on White
- MASSON: 8 drawings
- MODIGLIANI: 5 drawings including a study for his last painting.

MOORE: 3 drawings
 O'KEEFE: 4 drawings
 OROZCO: 4 including 3 studies for murals
 PASCIN: 4 together with an album of 166 sketches done in Cuba
 PICASSO: 6 drawings
 RIVERA: 7 including 5 studies for his Mexican murals of the 1920's
 SEURAT: 5 drawings bequeathed by Miss Lillie P. Bliss and on extended loan
 SHEELER: 6 drawings
 TCHELITCHEW: 8 including 5 studies for Hide and Seek

Donors

Seven of the most important drawings - 5 by Seurat, 2 by Cézanne - were included in the Lillie P. Bliss Collection bequeathed to the Museum in 1934.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. has given the Museum 76 of the drawings now in the collection, mostly in 1935 and 1940; and most of the purchases have been made with funds given by her. Almost all of these are designated "Given anonymously" or "Purchase Fund".

Other donors with the number of their gifts:

Vico Baer (3)	Paul Magriel (1)
Erich Cohn (1)	John McAndrew (1)
Frank Crowninshield (1)	Mrs. Charles McKinley (1)
Mrs. Marjorie Falk (1)	Mrs. Saidie A. May (2)
Mrs. Meredith Hare (1)	Mrs. Stanley J. Resor (2)
Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. (1)	Paul J. Sachs (2)
Lincoln Kirstein (2)	Tristan Tzara (1)
Sam A. Lewisohn (4)	Curt Valentin (7)
Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Lewisohn (1)	Edward M. M. Warburg (14)
Pierre Loeb (1)	Mrs. Geo. Henry Warren (1)
	Miss Edith Wetmore (1)

Purchases

Purchases have been made from the following funds:

Mrs. Simon Guggenheim	(18)
van Gogh Purchase Fund	(1)
Inter-American Fund	(15)
Lillie P. Bliss Bequest	(4)
Purchase Fund (anonymous)	(49)

Extended Loans

Five drawings are "Extended Loans" which, upon the death of the lenders, become the property of the Museum unless previously withdrawn. These include a drawing by Seurat lent by Miss Adelaide M. de Groot and four by Masson lent by Henry Church.