

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

LOCAL ORANGE

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PRESS PREVIEW: TUESDAY,

MAY 22, 2-5 P.M.

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## SELECTIONS FROM STIEGLITZ COLLECTION TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM

Selections from the famous Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946) Collection of European and American art, now on extended loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be exhibited on the first floor of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from May 23 through August 12. These selections will offer in brief a survey of the scope of Alfred Stieglitz' pioneer work in introducing modern art into America. Paintings, sculpture, drawings and watercolors will represent work done from about 1905 up into the 1940s by such modern masters as Picasso, Matisse, Brancusi, Picabia, Severini, Kandinsky, Marin, Hartley, Dove and Demuth. These are examples of purchases made by Stieglitz himself from the shows which he arranged in his galleries, starting long before the Armory Show of 1913, which is usually considered America's introduction to modern art.

The works by Georgia O'Keeffe, the executrix of the Stieglitz estate, were deposited on permanent loan by her at the Metropolitan on the understanding that they should be considered a part of the Stieglitz Collection.

### European works:

Included in the show will be several examples of the early works which were shown in those first American exhibitions, arranged by Stieglitz, of Matisse (1908), Picasso (1911), Brancusi (1914), Severini (1917) and others. Early works by Matisse including two watercolors, a bronze torso and two drawings will be shown. An important group of Picasso drawings done from 1909-13 includes three large heads illustrating the steps of Picasso's early development of cubism. A large and quite realistic drawing in charcoal of a still life may be compared with one of the most abstract still life drawings of 1913. This still life is a collage, that is, pasted paper has been incorporated in the charcoal drawing. A superb charcoal drawing of a nude done in 1910 was nicknamed "the fire escape" when it was

shown in Stieglitz' gallery in 1911 with 82 other Picasso drawings and etchings.

An outstanding group of large futurist drawings by Severini will be included as well as a painting "Dancer-Helix-Sea" shown in the Museum's 20th-Century Italian Art in the summer of 1949.

One of the futurist drawings is also a collage. In the case of the Picasso the pasted newsprint is used simply as part of the composition; whereas Severini used fragments of a French newspaper article of September 3, 1914, containing war news and reports on Italy's policy, as an indication of the futurists' sympathy with the Allied cause.

The large Kandinsky of 1912 and two Picabia watercolors of the same period represent two other important European pioneers of abstract painting.

American works:

An excellent group of 12 Marin watercolors, ranging in date from 1909 to 1941, includes an early view of Paris and one of the Tyrol and, in addition, a number of the later, well-known American themes: Brooklyn Bridge, Lower Manhattan, the White Mountains, the coast of Maine, the mountains in New Mexico. Marin was one of the first Americans exhibited and sold by Stieglitz.

Four paintings and two drawings by Georgia O'Keeffe include the famous Black Abstraction of 1927, Black Iris, White Canadian Barn and the well-known drawing, Blue Lines, of 1915. The large oil by Marsden Hartley, Portrait of a German Officer, 1914, is one of his best works of that period. Two small oil landscapes are dark, poetic studies; both are very early, one showing the influence of Impressionism.

Arthur Dove's work is represented by an early, rather abstract pastel: Pagan Philosophy; as well as a pastel Cow that is more typical of the work that was to follow; and a series of small, quick water-color notes that are among his freshest and most spontaneous work. Two very early abstract pencil drawings were done by Abraham Walkowitz, another of the American artists whose careers were launched by Stieglitz.

A number of the works to be shown were included in the exhibition "Alfred Stieglitz: His Photographs and Collection" which occupied two floors of the Museum of Modern in 1947 and was the first and largest memorial showing of the twofold achievements of this pioneer.

These works from the Stieglitz Collection are made available to this Museum by the Metropolitan under the terms of the agreement existing between the two Museums.

A complete check list of the exhibition will be available at the press preview on Tuesday, May 22, from 2 to 5 p.m.