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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

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NOTE: Since the acquisitions described below are well-known works that have frequently been seen, there will be no special press preview. The press is welcome to view the works at any time starting Tuesday afternoon March 18.

FOR RELEASE: March 19

FOUR IMPORTANT WORKS FROM SAM A. LEWISOHN TO BE EXHIBITED

Four important works of art bequeathed to the Museum of Modern Art by the late Sam A. Lewisohn will go on view on the second floor of the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, on March 19. The bequest includes a life-size bronze figure, Torso of a Woman, by Aristide Maillol, and three major paintings: The Three Judges by Georges Rouault, Pierrot by Pablo Picasso and Violin Player by Ben Shahn.

The Three Judges of 1913 is one of the great achievements of Rouault's middle period. The painter, a profoundly religious man capable of savage moral indignation, here assaults the arrogance, stupidity and monumental pomposity of the law courts at their worst. He hews out the brutal planes of his victims' faces as if his brush had become an avenging axe; his anger glows in the sombre reds of the judicial robes, smokes in the deep green-blue of the background. There is in this painting a "sultriness" as Mr. Lewisohn himself once expressed it, "that has the menacing feeling of an approaching thunderstorm." The Three Judges, which was the donor's favorite 20th-century painting, is a capital and badly needed addition to the Museum's collection.

Ben Shahn's Violin Player is an excellent work by one of the foremost living American painters. It was painted in 1947 at a time when the artist had recently turned to broadly brushed compositions of one or two large figures instead of the small-scale street scenes and social commentaries which had originally won him fame.

During the decade preceding the Pierrot, Picasso had been deeply absorbed in cubism, but in 1917 he began to paint the human figure in a more traditional way, apparently influenced by his new interest in the Russian Ballet. The Pierrot, doubtless inspired by one of the dancers, is quite naturalistic in drawing, but the traditionally white costume is modeled with lively contrasting hues of scarlet and green.

The Maillol Torso of a Woman well demonstrates that beautiful balance between serenity and vitality which so often distinguishes the work of the greatest sculptor of his generation.

Sam A. Lewisohn, New York philanthropist and businessman, was one of the foremost American collectors of modern paintings and the author of Painters and Personality, a Collector's View of Modern Art. He had been a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art since its foundation in 1929 and at the time of his death in March 1951 was a Vice President of the Board.

Aristide Maillol: Torso of a Woman. Bronze, about 1925. 39 3/4"
Pablo Picasso: Pierrot. Oil, 1918. 35 x 27 5/8"
Georges Rouault: The Three Judges. Oil, 1913, 28 x 40"
Ben Shahn: Violin Player. Tempera, 1947. 39 x 25"