

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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Using a specially designed traveling crane for lifting heavy sculpture, workmen will place an 840-pound statue of a woman on an 8-foot high pedestal in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Thursday morning, April 16. This will be one of the major operations in arranging an exhibition of 25 monumental outdoor sculptures in the re-designed garden of the Museum to open for Museum members with special ceremonies on April 28 as the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden. It will open to the public on April 29.

Permanent peephole gates have been placed in the new 14-foot brick wall which now bounds the garden on 54th Street so that passersby can see the final steps in the construction of the new garden and the installation of the sculpture and will also be able to look in after the garden is completed.

The garden has been completely transformed since it was closed to the public last summer. A 168x110-foot area has been sunk four feet below grade and paved with unpolished gray marble blocks. Myrtle covers the banks of the surrounding terraces on which trees have been planted. Two rectangular pools, one 96' long, the other 50' long, and a large group of Chinese pagoda trees divide the exhibition area into four sections and provide varied backgrounds for the many types of modern sculpture which will be displayed. European birches, 30 feet tall, weeping beeches, gray birches and black hawthorne trees have also been planted in the exhibition area.

The first exhibition, now being installed, is "Sculpture of the Twentieth Century," an important show of 100 works of art from Europe and America, to be on view in the garden and in the Museum's first floor galleries from April 29 through September 7. It was organized by Andrew Carnduff Ritchie, Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture. The new design for the garden was under the direction of Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design. Associated with him were: James Fanning, landscape consultant; George Hopkinson, architect; Landis Gores, associated designer; Robert Anderson, supervisory architect; Richard Kelly, lighting consultant; Tuck & Eipel, structural engineers. The marble was obtained with the assistance of the Marble Institute of New York City.