

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

loc + vahl general
base

76

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY,
March 29, 1954

No. 32

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART BUYS EXHIBITION PAVILION IN VENICE

William A.M. Burden, President of the Museum of Modern Art, announced today that the Museum has bought the pavilion used for showing modern American art at the International Art Biennale Exhibitions in Venice. The pavilion, formerly owned by the Grand Central Art Galleries of New York, is the only privately-owned exhibition hall at the famous international art show. The other pavilions are owned by more than 20 governments which officially sponsor exhibitions of contemporary art from their own countries at the Biennale.

The Museum of Modern Art has bought the building, Mr. Burden said, in order to insure the continuous representation of art from this country at these famous international exhibitions which have been held every two years since 1892 except for the war period. The Venice Biennale is sponsored by the Italian government in order "to bring together some of the most noteworthy and significant examples of contemporary Italian and foreign art" according to the official prospectus.

To present as broad a representation of American art as possible the Museum of Modern Art will ask other leading institutions in this country to co-operate in organizing future exhibitions.

The exhibition hall in Venice was purchased to implement the Museum's International Exhibitions Program, made possible by a grant to the Museum last year from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

An International Jury composed of the Commissioners appointed by the governments of nations participating in the Biennale and others associated in an official capacity with the exhibition will award prizes in painting, sculpture and engraving.

Fifteen governments so far have announced their participation in the 27th Biennale. France has appointed Professor Raymond Cogniat, General Inspector for Fine Arts, to organize its exhibition. Great Britain has appointed Sir Philip Hendy, Director of the National Gallery in London, to organize a three-man show of work by Francis Bacon, Ben Nicolson and Lucian Freud. Venezuela, taking part for the first time, is building a new pavilion, and the Government of the Netherlands is having the Dutch Pavilion completely rebuilt by the famous architect Gerrit Rietveld. Other participating countries include Finland, which is taking part for the first time since 1914, Poland, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Israel, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and Greece.