

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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NO. 11
FOR RELEASE:
February 6, 1957

EDVARD MUNCH, A Selection of His Prints from American Collections, by William S. Lieberman. 40 Prints, 32 plates (color frontispiece); paper, \$1.50. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Simon and Schuster. Feb., 1957.

EDVARD MUNCH, A Selection of His Prints from American Collections, by William S. Lieberman, will be published by the Museum of Modern Art on February 18. Forty prints by the Scandinavian artist, generally considered the father of German Expressionism, are reproduced. Mr. Lieberman, Curator of Prints at the Museum, has written a sensitive assessment of this artist whose melancholy, dramatic art found its most significant statement in his printmaking. Obsessed by themes of love and anxiety, suffering and death, Munch is the foremost artist Scandinavia has produced. He was a friend of the Swedish dramatist August Strindberg, of the French symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé and of the Polish writer Stanislas Przybyczewsky, whose portraits are included in the present volume.

Among the famous prints reproduced are The Shriek, his most vivid image in any medium, Anxiety, published in Paris by Ambroise Vollard, and The Kiss, an extreme example of how in graphic media, Munch distilled the compositions of his paintings to achieve a maximum dramatic effect by a minimum of means. Through several prints Mr. Lieberman traces Munch's attitude toward woman and her relationship to man, the central problem of much of the artist's best work.

An exhibition of 120 examples of his graphic work, many loaned by the city of Oslo as well as from American private collections, will tour the United States this Spring after a New York showing at the Museum of Modern Art from February 6 through March 3.

The book is dedicated to J. B. Neumann, "early champion of Munch, who has brought to the United States so many of the prints reproduced on these pages." Mr. Lieberman is also the author of several monographs on modern artists, including The Sculptor's Studio: Etchings by Picasso (1952), Jacques Villon: His Graphic Art (1953), published by the Museum of Modern Art, as well as Henri Matisse: Fifty Years of His Graphic Art, published this fall.

Review copies and photographs are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, CI 5-8900.