

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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## MAJOR PORTION OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S DESIGN COLLECTION ON VIEW IN JAPAN

The most comprehensive selection of the extensive design collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, ever to be shown anywhere went on view in Japan yesterday, Tuesday, February 19, when the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, inaugurated the exhibition 20TH CENTURY DESIGN IN EUROPE AND AMERICA: SELECTIONS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK. Consisting of approximately three hundred objects from fourteen countries, this survey of the history of design in the Western world during the past sixty years was organized by the Museum of Modern Art under its International Program of circulating exhibitions at the invitation of the Tokyo Museum, with the aid of a special grant from the Japan Society. The Asahi Press is serving as co-sponsor of the exhibition in Japan.

Prince Takamatsu, brother of the Emperor, and Princess Takamatsu were present at the opening, which was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and other Japanese government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and leading personalities in the Tokyo art world.

The exhibition, selected by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, and Miss Greta Daniel, Associate Curator of Design, comprises examples of furniture, ceramics, glassware, flatware, accessories, cooking and other kitchen utensils, laboratory equipment, tools, and miscellaneous office and household equipment. The nine sections into which the exhibition is divided represent successive phases in the development of design in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Although some craft objects are included, emphasis is primarily on machine-made objects selected for excellence of design as well as utility.

During a six-month tour of Japan the exhibition will be seen at Osaka and Fukuoka as well as in Tokyo. Its installation was designed by Kiyoshi Seike, Assistant Professor of Architectural Design at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. An illustrated catalog of the exhibition with foreword by Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and text by Mr. Drexler, translated by Mr. Chisaburo Yamada, is being published for the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, by the Asahi Press of Japan.

20TH-CENTURY DESIGN IN EUROPE AND AMERICA is the third exhibition which the Museum of Modern Art's International Program of Circulating Exhibitions, directed by Porter A. McCray, has presented at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. It

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was preceded by CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY in 1953 and by a MEMORIAL ART EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF YASUO KUNIYOSHI in 1954. The International Program also sent to Japan in 1953 SEVEN AMERICAN WATERCOLORISTS which constituted part of the United States participation in the II International Art Exhibition of Japan, sponsored by the Mainichi Newspapers under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. The Program has also just accepted an invitation to arrange the American representation at the IV International Art Exhibition of Japan, scheduled to be shown in eight leading cities in that country from May to December, 1957.