

THE MUSEUM OF
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----- MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Accompanied by a police escort, La Grande Jatte, famous painting by the French artist Georges Seurat, will make its first and only entry into New York City on Tuesday evening, March 18. The 6 1/2 by 10 foot painting, owned by the Chicago Art Institute, will arrive in a special railroad car at the Railway Express Agency Terminal in Hoboken, New Jersey, at 6:55 p.m. There the picture will be met by Museum of Modern Art officials and transferred to an insulated truck. The police will escort the truck to the Museum galleries, 11 West 53 Street, New York, where it will be immediately unpacked while still and motion picture cameras will record how it is handled and its condition. (The truck is expected to arrive at the Museum about 9 p.m.)

Estimated to be worth more than one million dollars, this is the only trip the painting can ever take as it was given to the Art Institute on condition that it be lent only once. Along with more than 150 paintings and drawings by Seurat, the picture will go on view at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, March 26 in the first retrospective of Seurat's work held for half a century.

La Grande Jatte has been packed in foam rubber in a specially constructed wood case. The frame has been packed separately. Louis Pomerantz, Conservateur of the Art Institute of Chicago, is accompanying the picture to New York.

Although La Grande Jatte caused an artistic scandal when first shown by the 28-year old artist in 1886 in Paris, it is now considered one of the world's modern masterworks. Seurat worked for two years and made about 20 drawings and more than 30 preliminary points before completing the final version. The finished picture contains 40 figures seen on the banks of a river on a holiday afternoon--includes strikingly arranged a subject in a tree, dogs, a woman fishing, boys rowing, soldiers, a nurse and children playing.

A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, its full title, was bought in 1923 for \$22,000 and then given to the Art Institute of Chicago by Helen Birch Bartlett

In the early 1930's a syndicate of French art dealers offered the Institute \$1,000,000 for the picture which has since tripled in value, it is estimated.

The exhibition will remain on view at the Museum through May 11.

For additional information please call Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art. DI 5-8900; after 6 p.m. CI 5-8903