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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, announced yesterday the acceptance of a gift from Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of a large group of modern paintings, watercolors and drawings, the major part of her collection of modern works of art. The gift to the Museum comprises 181 objects, the work of 71 American and foreign artists, the Americans greatly predominating in numbers and in works included in the group.

Among the artists represented in the gift are the following:

*with Spencer*  
American  
*Vincent Canade*

- ✓ George Bellows
- ✓ Peter Blume
- ✓ Emile Branchard
- ✓ Alexander Brook
- ✓ Charles Burchfield
- ✓ Glenn Coleman
- ✓ Stuart Davis
- ✓ Charles Demuth
- ✓ Preston Dickinson
- ✓ Guy Pène duBois
- ✓ Louis Eilshemius
- ✓ George Overbury ("Pop") Hart
- ✓ Hilaire Hiler
- ✓ Edward Hopper
- ✓ John Kane
- ✓ Bernard Karfiol
- ✓ Benjamin Kopman
- ✓ Walt Kuhn
- ✓ Yasuo Kuniyoshi
- ✓ John Marin
- ✓ Alfred Maurer
- ✓ Georgia O'Keeffe
- ✓ Jules Pascin
- ✓ Maurice Prendergast
- ✓ Ben Shahn
- ✓ Charles Sheeler
- ✓ Maurice Sterne
- ✓ A. Walkowitz
- ✓ Max Weber
- ✓ Marguerite Zorach
- ✓ William Zorach

*Amis Cross*  
English

- ✓ Tom Nash
- ✓ P. Wilson Steer

French and School of Paris

- Pierre Bonhomme*
- ✓ Pierre Bonnard
- ✓ Marc Chagall
- ✓ André Derain
- ✓ Henri Gaudier-Brzeska
- ✓ Juan Gris
- ✓ Max Jacob
- ✓ Albert Marquet
- ✓ Henri-Matisse
- ✓ Jacques Mauny
- ✓ Amedeo Modigliani
- ✓ Pablo Picasso
- ✓ Odilon Redon
- ✓ Georges Rouault
- ✓ Pierre Roy
- ✓ Paul Signac

*André Maillol*  
*marcel zwan air*  
*Savart*  
German

- ✓ Max Beckmann
- ✓ Otto Dix
- ✓ Paul Klee

*Erich Heckel*  
Norwegian

- ✓ Per Krohg

Russian

- ✓ Wassily Kandinsky

*Belgian*  
*F. Masereel*

*lux*  
*Rivera*  
*Charlotte*  
*Merida*  
*argos*

*Arnold Friedman*  
*Anne Goldthwait*  
*Mrs. Rockefeller*  
*Morris Kantor*

Mrs. Rockefeller is one of the founders of the Museum of Modern Art. Her interest in the work of modern artists began about ten years ago and was stimulated by meeting the late Arthur B. Davies at that time. In 1913 Mr. Davies had been president and driving force of the famous "Armory Show" which introduced modern art to the American public. An artist himself, he was unremitting in his efforts to advance appreciation for the work of all good modern artists. Guided by his judgment, Mrs. Rockefeller began her collection

of modern art, frequently buying the works of artists who were then in the experimental stage but who today are recognized as leaders in their field.

Mr. A. Conger Goodyear, President of the Museum, commented yesterday on the character of Mrs. Rockefeller's collection and the implications to be drawn from her gift. "Next to the bequest of Miss Lillie P. Bliss," Mr. Goodyear said, "Mrs. Rockefeller's gift is the most important one that the Museum has received.

"In two respects it is particularly important to the Museum. It is made up entirely of the work of artists still living or who have died within the last few years. Secondly, for the most part the collection is the work of American artists and it shows to particular advantage their fine accomplishment in watercolors.

"The Museum of Modern Art as yet has no funds available for the purchase of works for its Permanent Collection. For the building up of that Collection we must rely entirely on gifts and bequests. That the Museum is making steady progress in acquiring an important collection of modern art is evidence of the growing recognition of the importance of such a collection to the general public.

"It is unfortunate that the present building occupied by the Museum is not large enough to permit showing the Permanent Collection when the large temporary exhibitions sponsored by the Museum are on view. This is a serious handicap on the Museum's activities and it is to be hoped that with the increase of the Permanent Collection some means may be found to provide for larger quarters which will permit its being on public view at all times."

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum, also commented on the gift yesterday. Mr. Barr said: "The generous gift which Mrs. Rockefeller has just made to the Museum of Modern Art is of especial value because it amplifies the Museum's collection of American art. Mrs. Rockefeller limited her collecting, with important exceptions, to watercolors and drawings. As a result, the groups of watercolors and drawings by American painters are particularly fine. The dozen watercolors by "Pop" Hart are generally acknowledged to be the finest group by this artist in any collection. The ten watercolors by Charles Demuth include two from his cubist period and six of his highly prized early studies of circus scenes and illustrations for novels.

"Charles Sheeler is represented by two of his most famous still life drawings, one of which is the composition with telephone which the artist calls Self Portrait. Last November Mrs. Rockefeller gave the Museum Sheeler's American Landscape, a study of the Ford factories at River Rouge. To this she has added another Sheeler oil, Rucks County Barns. There are also representative groups of water-colors by Burchfield, Hopper, Marguerite and William Zorach, the late Jules Pascin and the late Maurice Prendergast, gouaches by Hilaire Hiler, drawings by Peter Blume, Bernard Karfiol and Stuart Davis, and pastels by Preston Dickinson.

"Among the American oil paintings in the gift Alexander Brook's George Biddle Playing the Flute is possibly the artist's finest portrait. Parade by Peter Blume is one of two large canvases by the brilliant young American whose other major work, South of Scranton, won first prize in the 1934 Carnegie International Exhibition of Paintings. Since his death last Fall, the paintings of John Kane, the Pittsburgh steel worker and house painter, have soared in value. Kane's Homestead, bought by Mrs. Rockefeller in 1930, was one of the first of his paintings acquired by a New York collector. Max Weber's Still Life with a Loaf of Bread, a romantic landscape, The Ruin, by Benjamin Kopman, Walt Kuhn's vigorous Dorothy and Guy Pène duBois's Americans in Paris are noteworthy. Angelo's Place, also in the collection, is the best known work of the late Glenn Coleman.

"The foreign watercolors and drawings of the twentieth century and paintings of the School of Paris are important in supplementing the paintings in oil of the same school bequeathed to the Museum by the late Miss Lillie P. Bliss. Among the artists represented are Picasso, by a cubist gouache and a fine drawing of dancers, Matisse by a pen study for his well-known painting the Plumed Hat, Chagall, Marquet and Mauny by watercolors, Maillol and Modigliani by drawings, and Derain by the Bacchic Dance, a watercolor of his fauve period. The oil paintings are far less numerous than the watercolors and drawings but include several works of great distinction. The Matisse still life The Gourds is considered by the painter to be one of his finest works of the year 1916. It is a composition of stark simplicity with little of the decorative quality characteristic of his later work.

"There is a cubist composition of aristocratic elegance by Juan Gris, two pastels by George Rouault and two by Odilon Redon.

Pierre Roy's sinister Danger on the Stairs, which caused much comment when it was shown at the Chicago Art Institute during the Century of Progress, is also included in the gift. Of two German oils, the Child with Doll by Otto Dix is remarkable for its severely objective handling of an ordinarily pretty subject, and Beckmann's Family Picture is a masterpiece of grotesque humor and firmly knit design.

"The paintings, watercolors and drawings in Mrs. Rockefeller's gift will not all be shown immediately but will be grouped under several classifications to form a cumulative series of exhibitions to run throughout the summer. The Summer Exhibition is scheduled to open to the public Wednesday, June 5."

At present there is an Exhibition of European Commercial Printing of Today displayed on the first floor of the Museum. It will be open to the public until June 30.