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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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As an American tribute to the major achievement of modern Italian painting and sculpture, an exhibition of more than 190 works selected from over 80 American private and public collections has been organized by the Museum of Modern Art for showings in Milan and Rome, Porter McCray, Director of the Museum's International Program, announced today. A cultural exchange project organized at the request of Italian museums and collectors and endorsed by the Italian government, Twentieth Century Italian Art From American Collections will open at the Palazzo Reale in Milan on April 30 under the patronage of President Giovanni Gronchi. It will remain on view in Milan until June 25, and afterwards will be shown in Rome at the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna from July 10 through September 10. The exhibition is being shown abroad under the auspices of the International Council at the Museum of Modern Art, a group of 111 patrons of the arts and community leaders from various parts of the United States.

The exhibition was selected by James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and its Committee on Museum Collections. One of the country's leading authorities on modern Italian art, Mr. Soby co-directed Twentieth Century Italian Art held at the Museum of Modern Art in 1949, the exhibition which first greatly stimulated the interest of American museums and private collectors in this field. The current exhibition is also intended as a return gesture for the generous cooperation of Italian collectors and institutions in lending to the earlier show.

Ranging in date from 1902 to 1958, the exhibition devotes major sections to the pre-Futurist and Futurist works of Balla, Boccioni and Carrà, the Metaphysical paintings of de Chirico, works by Modigliani, Morandi, Manzù and Marini, as well as a section of works by artists who received major recognition in the postwar period, such as Afro, Burri, Capogrossi, Cremonini, Guttuso, Santomaso and Scialoja. Many works have never before been publicly on view in Italy, including some of the finest examples of the Futurist school.

The Honorary American Committee for the exhibition is headed by Clare Boothe Luce, former American Ambassador to Italy, with William A. M. Burden, United States Ambassador to Belgium as Vice-Chairman. In Milan the exhibition is under the auspices of the Ente Manifestazioni Milanesi and the Commissione di Palazzo Reale.

A catalog, prepared by the staff of the Museum of Modern Art, is being produced in Italy and illustrates all the works in the exhibition, including twenty-one color plates. The text includes a preface by Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President of the International Council and a critical essay by Mr. Soby.

For further information and photographs contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director,
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