

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is a corrected version of release No. 126 dated November 1.

## Background Fact Sheet on Benefit Exhibition

Paintings and sculpture from the James Thrall Soby Collection of works of art pledged or already given to the Museum, will be shown at M. Knoedler & Co., 14 East 57 Street for the benefit of the Museum of Modern Art Library. The exhibition is one of the many events in the Museum's 30th Anniversary Drive.

Benefit Preview: Tuesday, Jan. 31, 1961, 5 - 11 P.M. Exhibition on view from Feb. 1 - 25.

Tickets: \$20, admit two, for opening. \$1 during exhibition - students \$.50.

Catalog: Four color plates, black and white reproductions of all other works in exhibition. Prefaces by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, President of the Museum, Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections, and by Mr. Soby who will also contribute notes on many of the works in the show.

Committee: Mrs. C. Sterling Bunnell, Chairman  
Mrs. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Mrs. Victor Ganz, Mrs. Samuel Taylor, and  
Mrs. Donald B. Straus, Vice-Chairmen.

Contents of Exhibition: The exhibition will be comprised of between 60 and 70 paintings, drawings and sculptures. Among the most important are three paintings by Picasso, most notably the great Seated Woman of 1927, three major canvases by Miró (Portrait of Mrs. Mills in 1750, the Self Portrait of 1937-38, and the unique Still Life with Old Shoe of 1937), and eight oils and a drawing by Giorgio de Chirico - all from the period 1914-1917 - probably the most important collection, private or public, of the artist's work anywhere. Also shown will be two paintings by the Englishman, Francis Bacon, the monumental Balthus canvas, The Street, Christian Bérard's haunting double self portrait called On the Beach, together with paintings by the brothers Eugene Berman and Leonid, two paintings each by Dali, Matta, Yves Tanguy, Tchelitchew, Loren MacIver, and Ben Shahn. Among the sculptures will be two bronzes by Marini, and works by Maillol, Lehmbruck, Reg Butler, Alexander Calder and Lynn Chadwick. Other artists represented in the exhibition are Peter Blume, Bonnard, Dubuffet, Charles Demuth, Max Ernst, Gris, Jasper Johns, Klee, Morandi, Kay Sage, Graham Sutherland and Joseph Cornell.

A selection of books by Mr. Soby will also be shown, including "After Picasso", "Salvador Dali", "Joan Miró", "Modern Art and the New Past", "Juan Gris", "Ben Shahn: His Graphic Art", "Giorgio de Chirico" and "Yves Tanguy". Most of his books have been published by the Museum.

The Museum's 30th Anniversary Drive, launched last year, aims at \$25,000,000 for additional building, endowment and program funds. The Museum Library, designated by Mr. Soby as the recipient of the benefit, has the greatest concentration in the world of data on 20th century art. (Books, clippings, documents, slides and photographs). In addition to serving the Museum staff, students and scholars from this country, the Library is asked by scholars all over the world to prepare bibliographies for their books. (Some of these will also be shown).

Like other areas of the Museum, the Library suffers from an acute lack of space. The textual materials are now contained in an area smaller than it had twenty-one years ago, - although its collections have increased fourfold. Furthermore, the Library needs purchase funds for printed and pictorial items it could not acquire in past decades owing to lack of resources. While it lacks sufficient facilities now, the Library is prepared to utilize its extensive experience in establishing an intelligence center in international documentation, to develop a photographic archive unequalled in its field, and, finally, to explore entirely new methods in indexing pictorial materials for professional use.

James Thrall Soby, well known art scholar and author, has been a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art since 1942. He is Chairman of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and of the Committee on the Museum Collections.

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Among the exhibitions he has directed recently for the Museum is Twentieth Century Italian Art from American Collections , shown in Milan and Rome last summer. Other recent shows are Juan Gris, at the Museum in 1958, Balthus late in 1956 and Giorgio de Chirico and Yves Tanguy in 1955.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1906, Mr. Soby attended Williams College and now lives in New Canaan, Connecticut, with his wife and three children. His personal collection of 20th Century works of art is one of the finest in the world. Paul J. Sachs, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Harvard University, says of him:

"Soby is a critic to whom we are grateful because by some rare magic he helps us to see. He is a safe and dependable guide through the mazes of modern art because of his background; because of his association with artists of his time; because he is blessed with an astonishing visual memory.

Words are his medium; words that are well chosen; words that carry us along and do not bemuse us; words that reflect the conviction of his sensitive seeing eye, trained by infinite looking at the art of the past as of the present."

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Photographs and additional material available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. CI 5-8900.