

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MAX ERNST - edited by William S. Lieberman. Chronology by Max Ernst. 63 pages. 85 plates, 1 in color. Catalog, bibliography. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, N. Y. Distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc. \$2.50.

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Max Ernst, pioneer of Dada and Surrealism and master of today's School of Paris, is the subject of a 63-page paperback published by the Museum of Modern Art in conjunction with its current survey of Ernst's work, the most comprehensive ever presented. William S. Lieberman, director of the exhibition, edited the book, which includes a chronology by the artist entitled "An Informal Life of M. E." and reproductions from five decades of his paintings, sculptures, drawings and collages. It may be purchased at the Museum for \$2.50; \$2.75 by mail.

Ernst begins the account of his life with his "first contact with the sensible world" on April 2, 1891 when he "hatched from the egg which his mother had laid in an eagle's nest" near Cologne. Continuing in this tone, he describes dreams and childhood experiences which haunt his work. He recalls his interest in art of the insane while a student of philosophy and psychiatry at the University of Bonn; his friendship with the sculptor Jean Arp, with whom he founded Dada in Cologne after World War I; his first trip to Paris where he later settled and became one of the leading exponents of Surrealism. During World War II, after internment, he came to the United States, returning to Europe eight years later.

Ernst also describes his many technical experiments: charts, advertisements, printers' proofs altered with ink and watercolor; Surrealist paper collages created from 19th century engravings; the innovation of frottage, a semi-automatic technique which consists of rubbing paper or canvas against textures; decalcomania; and experimentation with paint dripped from a can over the surface of a canvas.

Notes by Mr. Lieberman included in the chronology provide a record of Ernst's exhibitions in Europe and America since 1912 when he first exhibited with Das Junge Rheinland, a group inspired by the poet August Macke. In 1959 Ernst won first prize at the 27th Venice Biennale and, as a result, was formally expelled by the Surrealist group which he had quit sixteen years before.

The book also includes a bibliography of 61 entries and a catalog of the exhibition which will be on view at the Museum through May 8 and at the Art Institute of Chicago next summer. New Yorker art critic, Robert Coates, called the show "a remarkably interesting and stimulating performance....the selection and the arrangement have been wisely handled and...gives an unusually consistent and coherent survey of the man's career..."

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Review copies and additional information available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.