

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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The Museum of Modern Art will honor one of Germany's foremost artists, Emil Nolde,

March 6 - April 30, with a retrospective of more than 180 paintings, watercolors and prints, ranging in subject matter from bold landscapes and cabaret scenes to profound religious works. Dr. Peter Selz, Curator of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, is directing the exhibition and is the author of a profusely illustrated monograph (67 plates - 17 in color) on Nolde to be published by the Museum at the same time. Dr. Selz, born in Munich and the leading authority on modern German art in America, is also the author of German Expressionist Painting, the standard work on the expressionist movement.

The exhibition is under the sponsorship of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

One of the founders and leaders of German expressionism, Nolde was concerned with finding a profound emotional reality behind appearances through observation of his own subjective reactions. His religious works in the show are powerful and authentic statements about life and its ultimate values - his fantastic and grotesque imagery is closely related to his native soil.

In writing about his imagery, Dr. Selz says: "The oldest of the German expressionists, his derivations reach back to the ancient phantoms of northern myth, and his concerns reach out to the primitive arts of all cultures. His painting reflects the very rhythms of northern existence, transformed by his unique sensitivity and the esthetic revolutions of his own time.

"Although primarily a colorist, he became one of the few truly great graphic artists of the twentieth century. Because he was a colorist above all, he endowed watercolors with new life and vitality and a sheer visual beauty which places him in the top rank of modern artists. In this medium, he relied on improvisation and expressive spontaneity, capturing his subject matter almost by accident in a manner suggestive of later more abstract painters."

Most of the works, all of the "Unpainted Pictures," done during the war when he was forbidden to paint by the Nazi government, are on loan from the Nolde Foundation in Seebüll, the artist's house and studio, where he spent many summers and the last 12 years of his life.

In connection with the Museum's current Emil Nolde exhibition, on Thursday, April 4, at 8:30 p.m., Thomas M. Messer, Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, will give a lecture on "Notes on Expressionist Painters" in the Museum of Modern Art Auditorium.

Emil Nolde will later be shown at the San Francisco Museum of Art and the Pasadena Art Museum.

Photographs and additional information available from Josephine Bradley, Publicity Department, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.