

The Museum of Modern Art

1 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 18

FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

PRESS PREVIEW:

Monday, May 25, 1964

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Art in a Changing World: 1884-1964 is the theme of seven simultaneous exhibitions marking the opening of The Museum of Modern Art's new galleries and enlarged Sculpture Garden on May 27 when more than 1,200 works of art will be presented in an unrivaled review of the art of our time.

The new galleries, which more than double the exhibition space, enable the Museum for the first time to present a panoramic view of the achievements of one of the most varied and revolutionary periods in the entire history of art, from Cézanne to such recent manifestations as pop art and assemblage, selected from its own world-famous Collections.

The great innovations in style, technique, subject matter and esthetic goals which characterize modern art are shown in about 400 paintings and sculpture including key works by such 20th century masters as Picasso, Matisse, Monet, Chagall, Miro, Léger and Braque. Recent work from this country and abroad, however, is given more of the new space than work of any other period. Newly acquired paintings from Asia and a special selection of family portraits will be shown as small temporary exhibitions within the large historic survey.

In addition, the new galleries provide the Museum's first opportunity to present throughout the year a continuous series of changing exhibitions from its collections of architecture and design, photography, and drawings and prints. In the new Philip L. Goodwin Galleries for Architecture and Design there will be about 400 works, ranging from Tiffany glass to electronic panels and including furniture, posters and architectural models from this country and abroad.

In the new Edward Steichen Photography Center, exhibitions of about 170 photographs will be rotated; the inaugural show will present an introduction to the accomplishments in the field as seen in work ranging from Mathew Brady's moving documents of the Civil War to recent experiments. The entire Photography Collection, now
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numbering about 7,000 prints, will be available to students, scholars and the interested public in adjacent study areas.

And the new Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints enable the Museum for the first time to put on view periodically changing exhibitions from its extensive and unique collections in this field. The inaugural shows are: 85 of the Museum's best drawings by 65 artists; about 10 works on paper relating to theater and dance; prints by 15 artists, each represented by several works; and books illustrated by André Derain from the Louis E. Stern Collection. The entire print collection of 7,000 works will be available for study in the adjacent Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room.

These changing exhibitions from the Museum's own Collections will be supplemented by about 20 temporary shows each year, consisting largely of loans. During the summer of 1964 these shows are: American Painters as New Lithographers; The Photographer's Eye; Two Design Programs: The Braun Company, Germany, and the Chemex Corporation, U.S.A.; 20th Century Engineering, which opens in June in the new Garden Wing; and the Children's Carnival of Art which will begin operation there on June 22.

Film showings, beginning May 28 in the refurbished Auditorium, will be devoted to recent Japanese work for 11 days. From June 8 and for the rest of the summer, the programs presented twice daily will be drawn from the Museum's Collection of 3,000 films from 10 countries. An exhibition of approximately 60 stills from these summer programs will be on view in the adjoining gallery at the same time.

Architectural Changes

Striking architectural changes in the Museum include the extension of the Sculpture Garden by the addition of a large upper terrace over the new one-story Garden Wing, the creation of a new entrance on West 53rd Street, with a spacious Main Hall, a new six-story wing on West 53rd Street, whose steel and glass facade adjoins the familiar marble and glass main building from which five bright banners will be hung for the opening. Philip Johnson Associates are the architects for the building and remodeling program.

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The Garden Wing where 20th Century Engineering will open in June, contains a 60 x 75 foot exhibition hall connected to the other new and remodeled ground floor galleries by a glass-walled corridor. On the lower level of the Garden Wing are new classrooms for the Art Center of the Institute of Art, which will be occupied next fall. The Children's Carnival of Art will be in operation here during the summer beginning June 22. Entrance for the classrooms and the Carnival is at 4 West 54 St.

A bookstore and information center flank the new entrance to the Museum galleries on 53rd Street. The new 60 x 70 foot Main Hall extends the entire width of the building; its clear glass north wall provides a spectacular view of the Sculpture Garden.

Other new facilities include a smoking lounge on the lower level outside the Auditorium and The Founders' Room on the sixth floor of the new 53rd Street Wing. The latter, a 45 x 45 foot domed room will be used for special events.

Follows Fund Raising Drive

A main purpose of the expansion was to provide exhibition space for the Museum's Collections, mostly confined to inaccessible storage. Thus, in the old galleries, only about 200 paintings and sculptures could be exhibited, now 400 will be on view. About 25 drawings and prints were shown regularly, now 165 will be on permanent exhibition. No gallery space was allotted permanently to the architecture and design collection or to the photography collection, both of which can now exhibit representative selections.

The opening of the new galleries, study areas and office, the sixth expansion in the Museum's 35-year history, begins a new phase in the Museum's development, according to René d'Harnoncourt, Director:

The Museum of Modern Art has three principal functions: to exhibit our constantly growing collections, now foremost in the world; to present a diversified program of temporary exhibitions and other activities; and to provide an international study center unique in the field of modern art. We can now begin to fully utilize our resources while maintaining the kind of flexibility necessary in order to respond to new demands for new services.

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The expansion was made possible by a successful fund-raising drive launched in 1959 for building, program and endowment. More than 2,890 people in 48 states and 15 foreign countries contributed. Seven million dollars was allotted for construction.

These new additions and remodeling complete the first phase of a two-part building program. By the end of the '60s, the Museum will have added more galleries west of its main building and will occupy the building to be vacated by the Whitney Museum of American Art when it moves to new quarters. Completion of the second and final phase will enable the Museum to increase its gallery space for temporary exhibitions; exhibit a larger percentage of its own painting and sculpture and place works not on view in easily accessible study galleries; provide similar study-storage for the Architecture and Design Collections and the Drawing Collection; and enlarge its Library and Archives.

The Museum, founded in 1929, is a non-profit educational institution. Unlike many museums in the country, it receives no city, state or federal funds, but is entirely supported by admissions, now more than 700,000 annually, fees from 30,000 members and contributions.

Individual releases on each of the exhibitions are being mailed separately.

Photographs and additional material available on request. We would appreciate it if you can observe Wednesday, May 27 as the release date for critical reviews of the various exhibitions.

For further information please call Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.