

# The Museum of Modern Art

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René d'Harnoncourt, Director of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that One, an approximately 9 x 17 foot canvas painted by Jackson Pollock in 1950, has been acquired by the Museum through the generosity of Sidney Janis. The enormous painting, considered a key work in Pollock's career and one of the milestones in American painting, has been placed on view in the Main Hall of the Museum. It will be joined on January 17 by a special exhibition of 103 paintings and sculpture from the Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection given to the Museum last year. One also known as Number 31, 1950 was formerly in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Heller whose cooperation facilitated the acquisition.

One is a very unusual work in Pollock's oeuvre on account of its size.

"Contrary to popular opinion," observes William Rubin, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum and author of the forthcoming book, Jackson Pollock and the Modern Tradition, "Pollock painted only three immense, wall-size pictures during his classic 'drip' period (from late 1946 through 1950) and only two later. These were pioneering works in the development of a new kind of large picture that was neither an easel painting nor a mural."

"One enters the collection of the Museum," Mr. d'Harnoncourt said, "in accordance with plans initially agreed upon between Mr. Janis and the Museum's Trustees in June 1967 at the time of Mr. Janis' gift to the Museum of the Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection. At that time Mr. Janis stipulated that the Collection, to be given fractionally over a period of years, was to be held intact until ten years after his death, after which time the Museum would be free to dispose of any of the works in order to acquire others consistent with the spirit of the Collection.

"Upon learning of the availability of One, Mr. Janis and the Museum Trustees amended the terms of their original agreement in order to enable the Museum to acquire this important painting now."

(more)

Mr. Janis has long had a special interest in Pollock's work. He visited the artist's studio as early as 1942 at which time he selected two of his pictures for a book. Neither reproduced well in black and white, so Mr. Janis a year later chose the Museum's The She-Wolf for the book Abstract and Surrealist Art in America published in 1944. Later, as an art dealer, Mr. Janis held five one-man exhibitions of Pollock's paintings.

The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection contains two other Pollock paintings, one of which may be the very first "drip." This brings to 13 the total number of his works now in the collection of The Museum of Modern Art. Lee Krasner Pollock, widow of the artist, commenting on the gift said: "How fitting that the Museum which was the first to acquire Pollock should now add to its collection one of his most masterful as well as celebrated paintings."

The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection, 103 works by three generations of artists, includes Picasso's magnificent Artist and His Studio, Boccioni's Dynamism of a Soccer Player, a group of Mondrians, Klee's Actor's Mask, primitives and 9 works by pop and related artists including portraits of Mr. Janis by George Segal, Marisol and Warhol. The exhibition, which will be on view at the Museum from January 17 through March 4, is directed by Dorothy C. Miller, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, and is being installed by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., now Counsellor to the Trustees following his retirement on July 1 as Director of Museum Collections. After the New York showing the exhibition will travel to other museums here and abroad for 2 1/2 years.

One was first shown at the Museum in 1957 in a one-man exhibition planned with the artist but never seen by him because of his death in an accident in 1956. It was shown again in a second and more comprehensive exhibition of Pollock's art in the spring of 1967.

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Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.