

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

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## Advance Information on WILLEM de KOONING Exhibition

Guest Director: Thomas B. Hess

- Showings:
- 1) Sept. 22 - Nov. 17, 1968: Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
  - 2) Dec. 5, 1968 - Jan. 26, 1969: The Tate Gallery, London
  - 3) March 3 - April 27, 1969: THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK
  - 4) May 16 - July 6, 1969: The Art Institute of Chicago
  - 5) July 28 - Sept. 14, 1969: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Presented under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Contents: This retrospective of de Kooning's work, including about 85 paintings and 50 sketches, drawings, collages and pastels, provides the first opportunity to see his whole development, from the mid-1930s to 1967, and to follow the logic which informs the artist's periodic swings between figure painting and abstraction which are uniquely fused in his style.

- 1) Pictures made prior to his first one-man show in 1948, when the artist had an "underground" reputation as a master, but was unknown except to his fellow painters. Includes lyrical abstractions in Pompeian pinks and blues; tightly painted figures with staring eyes; and the emergence of his explosive Abstract-Expressionist manner.
- 2) Black-and-white "action paintings" and pictures in heavily colored strokes of the brush lead to Attic (1949) and Excavation (1950), which would influence a whole generation of modernist artists.
- 3) After three years' struggle, the first Woman is completed, to be followed by a series of figures which became tragi-comical icons for the mid-century.
- 4) Abstract paintings with a landscape feel to them develop from the fragmented anatomies of Women. The light is of the city and its suburbs. The forms are gestural and violent.
- 5) The landscapes and Women re-emerge in the pastoral environment of the Long Island countryside. Colors are lighter and sunnier; forms larger. A new space for the figure is invented.
- 6) Drawings in all mediums, and pastels and collages range from an early study done at the Rotterdam Academy to some late, very free sketches done with the eyes closed. Also experiments with torn paintings reassembled, torn drawings, mixed images.

Catalogue: Willem de Kooning by Thomas B. Hess, scheduled for publication November, 1968. Essay by Mr. Hess, complete exhibition catalogue, chronology, bibliography.

Publications by Mr. Hess include: Abstract Painting: Background and American Phase (Viking, 1951); Willem de Kooning (Braziller, 1959); and de Kooning: Recent Paintings (Walker, 1967).  
Mr. Hess is Editor of Art News.

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