

The Museum of Modern Art

City Editor -Photo Editor

ALERT

Lillian Gerard Phone: 956-7296

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Loan by Soviets to U. S.

SOVIETS LEND U. S. TWO PICASSOS IN FIRST ART LOAN OF ITS KIND. U. S. GOVERNMENT GIVES ASSURANCES OF SEIZURE IMMUNITY.

The Soviet Union is sending to this country two of its priceless Picasso paintings from the Hermitage Collection. The paintings will arrive at the Museum of Modern Art accompanied by a Soviet curator from the Leningrad museum Monday, December 7, at 11:30 am, when a United States Customs Inspector will be on hand so the crates can be opened and inspected before consent is given for their exhibition as part of a major winter show titled **FOUR AMERICANS IN PARIS: THE COLLECTIONS OF GERTRUDE STEIN AND HER FAMILY.**

Over 200 paintings, originally belonging to the Stein family, which have since found their way into private ownership or museum collections as far as Australia, will be included. This is, however, the first Soviet loan of its kind to an American museum. The showing of Picassos, Matisses, Cezanes, etc., was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation.

Factory at Horta de Ebro, painted by Picasso in 1909, is one of the two paintings arriving from the Soviet Union. It was one of Picasso's three early cubistic paintings -- the other two are in the collection of Nelson and David Rockefeller.

The second painting is Three Women which the artist painted in 1908.

Both of these Picassos were acquired by the Steins in the early years, but the Steins often traded among themselves or loaned their works, and these particular paintings came into the hands of a Russian businessman and pioneering art collector, Serge Schoukin. After the 1917 Revolution they were confiscated by the Soviet government, but when exhibited in Paris in 1954, an heir of Schoukin claimed them.

Assurances had to be forthcoming prior to the granting of the loan that no attempts would be made "to seize" the paintings and that the U. S. government recognized them as the "indisputable" property of the Soviet Union. A determination, which in effect rendered the paintings immune from seizure while they are in the United States, was issued.

The lady curator, Larisa Dukelskaya, arriving with the painting, will not only see to their safe arrival, but will also be able to inform the American curator, Margaret Potter, of the proper physical conditions and necessary precautions for the safety of these works of art for the duration of their stay here.

WE SUGGEST COVERAGE. PLEASE GO TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRANCE, 21 W. 53 ST., MEZZANINE FLOOR, DECEMBER 7, 11:30 am.

Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, phone: 956: 7501.

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

FACT SHEET ON TWO PAINTINGS FROM THE HERMITAGE, LENINGRAD

THREE WOMEN. Pablo Picasso. Paris (1908). Oil on canvas, 78 3/4 x 70 1/8.

"Against the wall was an enormous picture, a strange picture of light and dark colours, that is all I can say, of a group, an enormous group and next to it another sort of red brown, of three women, square and posturing, all of it rather frightening."

--Gertrude Stein, Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas

FACTORY AT HORTA DE EBRO. Pablo Picasso. (1909). Oil on canvas, 53 x 60 cm.

"That summer they went again to Spain and he (Picasso) came back with some spanish landscapes and one may say that these landscapes...were the beginning of cubism...There was very evidently a strong Cezanne influence... In these pictures he first emphasized the way of building in spanish villages, the line of the houses not following the landscape but cutting across and into the landscape, becoming indistinguishable...the principle of the camouflage of the guns and ships in the war...When they were first put up on the wall naturally everybody objected...When people said that the few cubes in the landscape looked like nothing but cubes, Gertrude Stein would laugh and say, if you had objected to these landscapes as being too realistic there would be some point in your objection. And she would show them the photographs (taken of the villages which Picasso had painted, copies of which he had given to her)."

--Gertrude Stein, Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas

This is one of the three early cubistic landscape paintings; the other two are in the collections of David and Nelson Rockefeller.