

The Museum of Modern Art

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The sensation that originally shook Paris in 1905 with a short-lived but exuberant moment in modern art history -- Fauvism -- is being experienced once again, some 70 years later, at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

On view at the Museum through June 1, and later travelling to San Francisco and Fort Worth, Texas, is a major exhibition entitled THE "WILD BEASTS": FAUVISM AND ITS AFFINITIES, which includes works of such principal artists in the movement as Matisse, Derain and Vlaminck.

The widely acclaimed exhibition of more than 100 paintings has been organized by John Elderfield, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum. On the occasion of this exhibition, Mr. Elderfield has written a major book which serves to define clearly the Fauvist movement, describing its origins and development as well as the philosophies and intellectual backgrounds of the Fauvist painters.

Both the book and the exhibition have been made possible through generous grants from SCM Corporation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Numerous reproductions -- 24 in full color -- complement the incisive text which has been hailed by Hilton Kramer, Art Critic for The New York Times, as "quite the best thing published on Fauvism." In the book, Mr. Elderfield discusses and analyzes many of the vivid paintings themselves. Extensive notes and a bibliography complete the handsome volume.

Though this exhibition represents Mr. Elderfield's first major curatorial effort, his experience as a writer on art is substantial. Born in Yorkshire, England, the director of this outstanding show has written for many art journals in Europe and the United States on topics ranging from Cezanne to the avant-garde of the 1970's. He is the author of Morris Louis and editor of Art and the Russian Revolution and Hugo Ball's The Flight Out of Time. He has also contributed to a wide number of American and European periodicals, including

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"Studio International" and "Art forum," where he served as a Contributing Editor for a number of years.

The exhibition will be travelling to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from June 30 through August 15, and then to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas from September 11 through October 31.

"This is a major exhibition on a major subject, and it has been put together with the panoramic assurance that we expect from a major show... This is a terrific show, and a most auspicious debut for Mr. Elderfield." -- John Russell,
The New York Times

"This exhibition can't fail to be a smash success. The very vices that horrified Paris in 1905 ('uncouth and naive' wrote one critic) have come to be regarded by succeeding generations as virtues." -- Douglas Davis, Newsweek

"... a glorious exhibition, and one that we shall want to revisit more than once." -- Hilton Kramer, The New York Times

"... luxuriantly magnificent exhibition..." -- Thomas Hess,
New York Magazine