

## DEPARTMENT OF PRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

### IMPRESARIO — AMBROISE VOLLARD

It was through the encouragement of Ambroise Vollard that printmaking became an acceptable and even important art form at the end of the 19th century, and with Vollard's continued support modern printmaking made its first great advances in the first four decades of this century. He commissioned from his painter and sculptor friends an enormous body of work, involving most of the major artists working in France. Over the years hundreds of these prints and illustrated books made their way into the Museum's collection. The current exhibition, Impresario — Ambroise Vollard, presents more than 400 prints and illustrated books, drawn from public and private collections here and abroad, with over 75% represented in the Museum's own collection.

Special facilities for the study of prints and illustrated books were established at the Museum when the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room opened in 1949, the first such study room for modern prints in the world. In 1964 the collection was moved to enlarged quarters, where virtually the entire collection of prints and illustrated books, except the fraction on view in the Museum galleries or on loan to other institutions, is available to the public by appointment.

Recent reconstruction of the study facilities for prints and illustrated books, made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kress Foundation, has provided better access to this collection. The study area is organized exclusively for public use, functioning as an information center, including library facilities and a catalogue section, with department staff providing assistance as well as supervision.

At least three exhibitions from the Museum's own collection are prepared each year, many loans to other institutions sent out each month, and new works reviewed by the staff and, in consultation with the Trustee Committee, added to the collection.

### THE ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER PRINT ROOM

#### STUDY FACILITIES AND THE COLLECTION

##### RESOURCES

Collections: The Print Room houses the most important collection of modern graphic art in the United States. It contains 11,000 acquisitions of prints, portfolios, illustrated books, original blocks, plates and stones--representing more than 30,000 items, dating from about 1885 to the present, by more than 1,500 artists.

At the time of the founding of the Print Room in 1949, there were 2,700 works in the collection. Between 1949 and 1963, 3,000 more prints were added. In the last ten years, the collection has practically doubled with the acquisition of 5,000 more prints.

Major holdings: Extensive collections of works by Jean Dubuffet, Paul Klee, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Henri Matisse, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, Odilon Redon, John Sloan, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as the complete production of the Tamarind Lithography Workshop from 1960 to 1970 and all published editions of Universal Limited Art Editions.

Documentary Material: Catalogue of collection, cross-reference subject and nationality card files, research files, including questionnaires answered by artists, relevant correspondence, library of definitive catalogues and technical books, exhibition and auction catalogues, and photographs.

#### EXAMPLES OF USE OF THE FACILITIES

An artist working in a particular medium studies other contemporary uses of the technique, and an artist making his first illustrated book examines the format and style of others.

An artist in South America writes for names of other professionals to contact in order to keep pace with new developments in printmaking.

A graduate seminar on printmaking meets in the study area, where a member of the staff lectures on 20th-century prints, using original works for illustration.

An art school in a small country inquires about how to buy an etching press.

A museum director writes for information on conservation and storage of prints.

A curator reviews with an artist the complete collection of her prints preparatory to the compilation of a definitive catalogue of that artist's work.

An art editor studies the format, paper, and layout of a 19th-century French book to assure accuracy in her reproduction of the volume.

An author writing on "the artist as social critic" consults the subject file for prints to illustrate his topic.

A young man seeking information on the history of modern prints and how to collect them gets a reading list from a staff member. During eight visits, he views prints of special interest to him, then is referred to galleries, print workshops, and other print rooms.

About 40 people per month visit the Print Room and many more are assisted through correspondence and by telephone.

Staff, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books

Riva Castleman, Director  
Howardena Pindell, Assistant Curator  
Alexandra Schwartz, Curatorial Assistant  
Audrey Isselbacher, Curatorial Assistant  
Linda Daniels, Secretary  
Ruth Friend, Clerk/Typist  
Peter Dworkin, Preparator

Trustee Committee on Prints and Illustrated Books

Mrs. Alfred R. Stern, Chairman  
Monroe Wheeler, Vice Chairman  
Walter Bareiss  
Mrs. Armand P. Bartos  
Lionel Epstein  
William S. Lieberman  
Mrs. Barnett Malbin  
Porter A. McCray  
Mrs. Gertrud A. Mellon  
Peter A. Rübél  
Mrs. Derald Ruttenberg  
Mrs. Richard L. Selle  
Alan Shestack  
Arthur Stanton  
Mrs. Walter Thayer

Associates of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Arnhold  
Mr. Richard Brown Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Berry  
Mr. Nelson Blitz, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cohen  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Garfield  
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hartwell  
Mr. Edgar B. Howard  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Janovic  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Kahn  
Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Kwok  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit L. Lansing  
Mrs. Ronald Lauder  
Mr. and Mrs. Troland Link  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Middleton  
Ms. Jean Mensch  
Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Oliensis  
Mr. James W. Oxnam  
Mr. and Mrs. Max Pine  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rosenfeld  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert B. Ruskin  
Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Seligmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Burt I. Sherman  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Smoller  
Mr. Paul F. Walter  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Carter Walker, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin W. Weinstein

THE ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER PRINT ROOMSELECTIVE LIST OF MAJOR EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ACQUISITIONS, AND SPECIAL LOANS

- Nov. 1929 First acquisitions made: group of German prints from Paul J. Sachs during the first month the Museum was opened
- 1932 Series of Beckmann etchings presented by J. B. Neuman and a dozen French prints from Mrs. Saide A. May
- 1934 Bequest of Lillie P. Bliss included 50 prints, among them major works by Cézanne, Renoir, Gauguin and Redon -- the most valuable addition to the collection in its first 12 years
- 1936 MODERN PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS AS ILLUSTRATORS,\* the Museum's first important print show, resulted in a gift from Rouault and his publisher Ambroise Vollard which included 31 rare inscribed proofs from the Miserere et Guerre
- 1936-37 DRAWINGS AND PRINTS FROM THE COLLECTION circulated to 8 American cities
- 1938 THE PRINTS OF GEORGES ROUAULT\* shown in New York; then circulated to 29 cities in U.S., 1938-42
- 1940 Abby Aldrich Rockefeller presented her collection of 1600 prints
- 1941-47 THE GRAPHIC ARTS shown in 38 American cities
- 1942 More than 120 European prints presented by Dr. Franz Hirschland
- 1943 Fund established by Henry Church for buying books illustrated with original prints
- 1944 NEW DIRECTIONS IN GRAVURE: HAYTER AND STUDIO 17; toured Latin America 1944-45; publication of Museum Bulletin on exhibition, Vol. XII, No. 1, August 1944
- 1944-47 WOOD BLOCK PRINTS IN COLORS circulated to 23 American cities
- 1945-49 ACTORS AND CLOWNS toured 32 cities in U.S.
- 1947 RECENT ACQUISITIONS: 61 lithographs by Toulouse-Lautrec and 31 aquatints by Picasso
- 46 RECENT LITHOGRAPHS BY PICASSO from the Collection of Mrs. Meric Callery
- 1948 PORTRAITS IN PRINTS; later circulated in U.S.
- PRINT GIFT: VICTOR S. RIESENFELD COLLECTION OF MODERN EUROPEAN PRINTS

(more)

## SELECTIVE LIST (cont'd.)

- 1949 Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room opened; William S. Lieberman, curator in charge
- MASTER PRINTS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION; "The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room: Master Prints from the Museum Collection," Museum Bulletin, Vol. XVI, No. 4
- 1950-55 LEGER'S "LE CIRQUE" toured 21 American cities
- 1951 Prints sent to I BIENAL DO MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNO, São Paulo; selections from collection included in subsequent Bienals in São Paulo
- 1951-55 MODERN BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS; shown in 26 cities across U.S.
- 1951-57 MAX BECKMANN PRINTS; circulated to 27 cities in U.S.
- 1952 PICASSO: HIS GRAPHIC ART; circulated as A HALF CENTURY OF PICASSO to 30 American cities, 1952-57; Museum Bulletin on this exhibition and Redon (see below) Vol. XIX, No. 2, winter 1952
- ODILON REDON: DRAWINGS AND LITHOGRAPHS; toured U.S. 1952-55; publication (see Picasso exhibition above)
- RECENT AMERICAN WOODCUTS AND PRINTS (by Marin, Hopper, Weber); toured U.S. 1952-55
- YOUNG AMERICAN PRINTMAKERS presented as U.S. representation in Internationale Graphik: 3 versions of show toured Austria, Germany, Norway, Mexico and Guatemala, 1952-59; shown in N.Y. 1953; and circulated in U.S. 1954-57
- 1953 JACQUES VILLON: HIS GRAPHIC ART; Museum Bulletin published on exhibition, Vol. XXI, No. 1, Fall 1953
- With the establishment of the Museum's International Council, five print exhibitions began tours abroad:
- 1953-58 THIRTY AMERICAN PRINTMAKERS sent to England, Scotland, Sweden, Finland
- 1953-59 CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING IN THE UNITED STATES sent to Australia and New Zealand
- 1953-60 THE AMERICAN WOODCUT TODAY sent to Austria, Norway, Yugoslavia, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Virgin Islands, and 5 Latin-American countries
- THIRTY-FIVE AMERICAN PRINTS sent to 8 Latin-American countries, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands
- RECENT AMERICAN PRINTS IN COLOR sent to Hawaii, Philippines, Viet Nam, Singapore, Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Korea
- 1954 AMERICAN PRINTS OF THE 20th CENTURY from the Collection

(over)

## SELECTIVE LIST (cont'd.)

1954 (cont'd.) Prints sent to Japan for memorial exhibition of THE WORKS OF YASUC  
KUNIYOSHI

## MODERN MASTERPRINTS OF EUROPE

Prints included in 50 ANS D'ART AUX ETATS-UNIS traveled throughout Europe

1954-57 GEORGES BRAQUE: PAINTER-PRINTMAKER toured U.S.

1955 ETCHINGS BY MATISSE\*

1956 Prints sent as part of U.S. representation to 9th session of General  
Conference of UNESCO in New Delhi

1957 THE GRAPHIC WORK OF EDVARD MUNCH\*

1958 "The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room 1949-1958," Museum Bulletin,  
Vol. XXV, No. 3 , July 1958

"The Sculptor's Studio: Etchings by Picasso," with an introduction  
by William S. Lieberman published by Museum

## THREE PAINTERS AS PRINTMAKERS: BRAQUE, MIRO, MORANDI

1959 AMERICAN ACQUISITIONS - RECENT ADDITIONS OF PRINTS TO THE MUSEUM  
COLLECTION

1961 BOCCIONI DRAWINGS AND ETCHINGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF MR. AND MRS.  
HARRY L. WINSTON\*; following, the exhibition UMBERTO BOCCIONI: HIS  
GRAPHIC ART traveled to The Netherlands, England and Scotland and  
toured U.S., 1962-65

1963-67 MODERN RELIGIOUS PRINTS circulated to 23 American cities

1964 Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints opened enabling the  
Museum for the first time to put on view regularly changing exhibitions  
from its extensive and unique collections of drawings and prints

## AMERICAN PAINTERS AS NEW LITHOGRAPHERS

Louis E. Stern Collection of Illustrated Books presented to Museum

CONTEMPORARY PAINTERS AS PRINTMAKERS\*; toured 13 Latin-American countries  
1964-68

John B. Turner Fund for Contemporary American Prints established

1966 LONDON/NEW YORK/HOLLYWOOD: A NEW LOOK IN PRINTS; circulated U.S.,  
1967-70

50 lithographs by Jean Dubuffet assembled for exhibition at the Museum  
of Contemporary Art in Nagaoka, Japan

(more)

## SELECTIVE LIST (cont'd.)

1966(cont'd.) AMERICANS TODAY: 25 PAINTERS AS PRINTMAKERS toured 12 African countries, 1966-70

THE TASTE OF A CONNOISSEUR: PAUL J. SACHS COLLECTION (drawings and prints)

THE RESPONSIVE EYE: PRINTS prepared for New York State Council on the Arts for circulation in state; toured 22 cities, 1966-69

1967 CANADA '67; circulated to 14 American cities 1967-70; entire contents of exhibition donated to Collection by Mrs. Samuel Bronfman, Mrs. John David Eaton, and Samuel J. Zachs.

The Museum of Modern Art was major contributor to THE ARTS OF THE FRENCH BOOK, 1900-1965, at Yale University Library and at Dallas Public Library -- the most important exhibition of modern illustrated books in recent years

THE ARTIST AS HIS SUBJECT; circulated to 16 American cities, 1967-70

PRINTS BY PICASSO: A SELECTION FROM 60 YEARS

1968 JASPER JOHNS: LITHOGRAPHS shown at IV DOCUMENTA, Kassel, Germany; circulated to Denmark, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania, 1968-70

1969 TAMARIND: HOMAGE TO LITHOGRAPHY\*; entitled TAMARIND IMPRESSIONS shown in 11 Latin-American countries and New Zealand 1969-74; complete production of the Tamarind Lithography Workshop given by Kleiner, Bell & Co., Inc., 1969 and 1973

1970 JOAN MIRO: FIFTY RECENT PRINTS\*; shown in 10 American cities, 1969-71; toured 6 Latin-American countries, 1971-72

PICASSO: MASTER PRINTMAKER; "Picasso's 347," included in this show, sent as exhibition to Japan and Venezuela prior to N.Y. showing; revised version seen in 3 other American cities 1970-71, and traveled to Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Australia and New Zealand, 1971-73

1971 TECHNICS & CREATIVITY: SELECTIONS FROM GEMINI G.E.L.\*; shown in 5 cities in U.S., 1971-72

94 prints sent to GRAPHIK DER WELT, Nürnberg

MODERN PRINTS\* began tour of Australia and New Zealand

JASPER JOHNS LITHOGRAPHS\*

1972 CALIFORNIA PRINTS; traveled to 5 other American cities, 1972-74

SYMBOLISM, SYNTHETISM AND THE FIN-DE-SIECLE; toured U.S. after N.Y. showing

1973 THE PRINTS OF EDVARD MUNCH\*

(over)

T  
11 W

SELECTIVE LIST (cont'd.)

1973 (cont'd.) RECENT ACQUISITIONS 1968-1973

1974 PRINTED, CUT, FOLDED AND TORN

LATIN AMERICAN PRINTS FROM THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART\* began Latin-American tour after initial showing at the Center for Inter-American Relations in N.Y.

AMERICAN PRINTS: 1913-1963, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room; traveled to 5 cities in Europe

GODS, HEROES AND SHEPHERDS

1975 TINGUELY: LA VITTORIA

JACQUES VILLON: 1875-1975

PRINTSEQUENCE

1976 NARRATIVE PRINTS

Reconstruction of study facilities of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, made possible with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and Kress Foundation, providing better access to the collection with more efficient methods of housing and working with the material.

PRINTS: ACQUISITIONS 1973-1976

1977 IMPRESARIO — AMBROISE VOLLARD\*, made possible by grants from Exxon Corporation and National Endowment for the Arts; to travel to 3 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition, prints have been included as major sections in numerous Museum retrospectives, as well as in its anniversary exhibitions.

\*exhibition accompanied by publication

June 1977

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information available from Linda Gordon, Associate Director, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St., New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-2648; 7501

\*\*\*\*\*