401221 - 80 * THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FIRST SHOWING OF LEGER MURAL AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A new mural painting, <u>Composition with Two Parrots</u>, by Fernand Léger, will have its first exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from December 27 through January 12. The mural is lent by Mrs. Meric Callery, an American who has lived many years in France. The picture reached this country on June 21, a short time before its owner arrived here from abroad.

Mr. Léger, one of the most famous of living French modern artists, painted the mural over a period of years from 1935 to 1939. It is 13 feet high, 15 feet, 8 inches wide and is considered by the artist to be his major work of the past decade.

The artist is now in New York, having arrived here from France early in November of this year. In the fall of 1935 the Museum gave him a one-man exhibition. The Museum's Collection includes two paintings by Mr. Léger: <u>Breakfast</u>, oil, c.1920, Gift of the Advisory Committee; and <u>Femme à la Toilette</u>, oil, 1925, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Purchase Fund.

NOTE TO ART CRITICS: There will be no special press preview of the Léger mural. It may, however, be viewed any time Monday or Tuesday, December 23 or 24.