

The William S. Paley Collection

FEBRUARY 2 - APRIL 7, 1992

The William S. Paley Collection at The Museum of Modern Art, which constitutes one of the most important private collections to be entrusted to a public institution in recent years, will be shown to the public in its entirety for the first time in an exhibition opening at the Museum on February 2, 1992. The exhibition was organized by William Rubin, director emeritus, Department of Painting and Sculpture.

Mr. Paley, founder and guiding spirit of CBS and a towering figure in the modern entertainment, communication, and news-dissemination industries, left his collection of more than eighty works of art to the William S. Paley Foundation for donation to The Museum of Modern Art, where he was chairman emeritus at the time of his death in October 1990. This exhibition pays tribute to Mr. Paley's dedicated service to the Museum over a period of more than half a century.

The Paley Collection, which includes paintings, sculpture, and drawings, ranges in date from the latter half of the nineteenth century through the early 1970s. It is especially rich in works by Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso, and includes as well significant works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Derain, Bonnard, Gauguin, Rouault, and other modern masters. Among the pieces on view in the exhibition are Gauguin's splendid *The Seed of the Areoi* (*Te aa no areois* [1892]), an important female nude from the artist's first sojourn in

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Tahiti; Cézanne's superb *Milk Can and Apples* (1879-80); a large and exquisite late pastel by Degas, *Two Dancers* (1905); Derain's dynamic Fauve painting *Bridge over the Riou* (1906); Picasso's celebrated monumental painting, *Boy Leading a Horse* (1905-06); and Matisse's striking masterpiece from his years in Nice, *Woman with a Veil* (1927). Many of the pieces in the collection fill important gaps in the Museum's collection, while others further enrich areas of strength.

The William S. Paley Collection is a highly personal one, built according to the dictates of private taste rather than to any more public concerns. As William Rubin notes in his preface to the catalogue accompanying the exhibition, in the middle 1930s, when William Paley bought many of his paintings, "...there were relatively few collectors of modern art---and nothing chic about possessing it."* Mr. Paley's passion for art made his collection a fundamental component of his private world. The works are, for the most part, intimate in both format and character, scaled for personal enjoyment and contemplation.

Mr. Paley's affiliation with The Museum of Modern art commenced in 1937, only eight years after the Museum was founded. He served successively as trustee, chairman of the Painting and Sculpture Committee, president of the Museum, and chairman of the Board, under whom the 1982-84 expansion was carried out. He was chairman emeritus from 1985 until his death. It is with deep gratitude that the Museum pays this tribute to William Paley's dedication, service, taste, and generosity.

THE WILLIAM S. PALEY COLLECTION, directed by Mr. Rubin in collaboration with Matthew Armstrong, curatorial consultant, and Lynn Zelevansky, curatorial assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, is

on view through April 7. Following its showing at The Museum of Modern Art, the exhibition will travel to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (September 11 - November 15, 1992), the Seattle Art Museum (December 17, 1992 - February 7, 1993), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (February 28 - May 16, 1993), the San Diego Museum of Art (June 9 - September 26, 1993), the Baltimore Museum of Art (October 31, 1993 - January 9, 1994), and the New Orleans Museum of Art (February 6 - April 17, 1994).

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*PUBLICATION: *The William S. Paley Collection* by William Rubin and Matthew Armstrong. Foreword by Richard E. Oldenburg, Director, The Museum of Modern Art. 192 pages. 73 color and 161 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Clothbound, \$45.00, and paperbound, \$24.95, available at The MoMA Book Store. Clothbound distribution to the trade by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

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