

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
February 1997

AN EXHIBITION OF EXCEPTIONAL MODERN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE GIVEN TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART BY FLORENE MAY SCHOENBORN OPENS THIS MONTH

Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest
February 6–March 11, 1997

An exhibition of 17 remarkable works of art given to The Museum of Modern Art by Florene May Schoenborn is on view at the Museum from February 6 through March 11, 1997. Highlighting the rich legacy of Mrs. Schoenborn's generosity both during her lifetime and in her recent bequest, *Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest* features paintings by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Pierre Bonnard, Fernand Léger, Georges Braque, Joan Miró, and Chaim Soutine and sculptures by Alberto Giacometti and Isamu Noguchi. Mrs. Schoenborn, who was a longtime MoMA benefactor and Life Trustee of the Museum, died in August 1995.

“The Matisse paintings Mrs. Schoenborn gave to this Museum during her lifetime already constituted one of the most significant donations ever made to our collection,” said Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, who organized the exhibition. “The addition now of two unrivaled early masterpieces by Picasso, a superb late Bonnard, a great early portrait by Miró, and several other superior paintings and sculptures further increases the luster of this wonderful history of generous and discerning patronage. While she was alive and now through her bequest, Mrs. Schoenborn demonstrated in the most enduring way her devotion to and respect for The Museum of Modern Art, and we in turn remember her with great affection and gratitude.”

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Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest

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The exhibition is on view on the second floor in the Florene May Schoenborn Gallery, which was named in Mrs. Schoenborn's honor in 1986, in recognition of her gift of five superb paintings by Matisse: *Moroccan Garden* (1912), *The Moroccans* (1915–16), *Woman on a High Stool* (1914), *Artist and Goldfish* (1914), and *Variation on a Still Life by de Heem* (1915). All of these paintings were featured in the Museum's landmark 1992 exhibition *Henri Matisse: A Retrospective* and are included in the current exhibition.

A number of the works in this exhibition were also seen in the Museum's 1965 traveling exhibition *The School of Paris: Paintings from the Florene May Schoenborn and Samuel A. Marx Collection* (Mr. Marx was Mrs. Schoenborn's second husband). In his introduction to the exhibition's catalogue, James Thrall Soby wrote: "The works of art in this collection have been chosen with the rapt concentration of diamond cutters. . . . The result is a collection of such authority that it would be difficult to think of its rival among private collections of modern art."

During her lifetime, Mrs. Schoenborn gave the Museum many significant paintings, drawings, sculptures, and prints. Her bequest has brought 14 additional important works to MoMA's permanent collection. Among these are Picasso's *Woman Plaiting Her Hair* (1906) and *Woman with Pears* (1909), Bonnard's *Nude in Bathroom* (1932), Léger's *The City* (1919), and Giacometti's *Tall Figure, Half-Size* (1947). A complete list of works included in the exhibition is attached.

An exhibition of Mrs. Schoenborn's gifts and bequests to The Metropolitan Museum of Art will be on view there from February 11 through May 4, 1997.

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For further information, contact Alexandra Partow, Assistant Director of Communications, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9756. Visit our Web site at www.moma.org. No. 10

Masterworks from the Florene May Schoenborn Bequest

Pierre Bonnard

Nude in Bathroom, 1932

Oil on canvas

47 5/8 x 46 1/2" (121 x 118.1 cm)

Georges Braque

Yellow Tablecloth, 1935

Oil on canvas

45 1/8 x 57 5/8" (114.6 x 146.4 cm)

Alberto Giacometti

Head, 1928

Bronze

15 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 2 1/2" (39.3 x 36.8 x 6.3 cm)

Alberto Giacometti

Tall Figure, Half-Size, 1947

Bronze

52 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 12" (132.1 x 19.1 x 30.5 cm)

Fernand Léger

The City, 1919

Oil on canvas

38 1/8 x 51 3/8" (96.8 x 130.5 cm)

Henri Matisse

Moroccan Garden, 1912

Oil, pencil, and charcoal on canvas

46 x 32 1/4" (116.8 x 82.5 cm)

Henri Matisse

Woman on a High Stool (Germaine Raynal),
1914

Oil on canvas

57 7/8 x 37 5/8" (147 x 95.5 cm)

Henri Matisse

Artist and Goldfish, 1914

Oil on canvas

57 3/4 x 44 1/4" (146.5 x 112.4 cm)

Henri Matisse

Variation on a Still Life by de Heem, 1915

Oil on canvas

71 1/4" x 7'3" (180.9 x 220.8 cm)

Henri Matisse

The Moroccans, 1915–16

Oil on canvas

71 3/8" x 9'2" (181.3 x 279.4 cm)

Joan Miró

Portrait of E. C. Ricart, 1917

Oil and pasted paper on canvas

32 1/4 x 25 7/8" (81.9 x 65.7 cm)

Isamu Noguchi

My Pacific (Polynesian Culture), 1942

Driftwood

39 1/4 x 19 x 13" (99.7 x 48.3 x 33 cm)

Pablo Picasso

Woman Plaiting Her Hair, 1906

Oil on canvas

49 5/8 x 35 3/4" (126 x 90.8 cm)

Pablo Picasso

Woman's Head, 1908

Oil on canvas

28 7/8 x 23 3/4" (73.3 x 60.3 cm)

Pablo Picasso

Woman with Pears, 1909

Oil on canvas

36 1/4 x 28 7/8" (92.1 x 73.3 cm)

Pablo Picasso

Woman in an Armchair, 1941

Oil on canvas

36 1/4 x 28 7/8" (92.1 x 73.3 cm)

Chaim Soutine

Man in a Green Coat, c. 1921

Oil on canvas

35 x 21 7/8" (88.9 x 55.6 cm)