

For release Saturday, Sept. 17
Sunday, Sept. 18

IMPORTANT MODERN GERMAN PAINTING PRESENTED TO
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK CITY

The first important modern German painting to be acquired by a New York museum will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, for the first time today (tomorrow) as a part of the Museum's permanent collection of modern painting.

The painting, a Portrait of Dr. Meyer-Hermann, by Otto Dix, leader of the "new realism" in German painting, is the gift to the Museum of Philip Johnson, director of the architectural department of the Museum and a member of the Museum's advisory committee.

The Dix painting has been hung in the large second floor gallery in the Museum's new quarters at 11 West 53rd Street. It is one of several important works of painting and sculpture presented to the Museum by art connoisseurs and patrons. The famous Bliss collection of modern paintings, bequeathed by the late Miss Lizzie P. Bliss to the Museum on condition that it establish itself with adequate endowment, remains on view in the galleries of the third floor.

Paintings by Otto Dix, including the Portrait of Dr. Meyer-Hermann, were shown previously at the Museum in the Exhibition of German Painting and Sculpture in March and April, 1931. At that time the Meyer-Hermann Portrait was lent by the painter to the Museum. It was painted in 1926. Dr. Meyer-Hermann is a well-known specialist of nose and throat diseases in Berlin. Singers and actors form his principal clientele.

With George Grosz, Otto Dix is the leader of the movement called "the new objectivity." Alfred H. Barr, Jr., director of the Museum, says of Dix's work, "Mordant realism is apparent in almost all his work but is accompanied by a very keen and original sense of

the grotesque.

"The Portrait of Dr. Meyer-Hermann is one of the most important modern German paintings in America. It shows Dix at his most objective. The rotund curves of the hands and body are wittily repeated in the shining sphere of the X-ray machine which rises above the doctor like a great metallic busby. The effect is equally reminiscent of the Machinismes of the dadaists and the beautifully painted paraphernalia in certain pictures by Holbein, especially the Astronomer in the Louvre, and the Two Ambassadors in London. Such a portrait might have won the approval of Bronzino or even of Ingres."

The most widely-known of Dix's paintings, perhaps the most famous picture painted in post-war Europe, is the painting War, one of a series of paintings and etchings in which the artist made permanent his grisly memories of four years at the front. The work of Dix's paintings of this period have much in common with the work of the novelist Remarque and are considered by critics worthy to rank with Remarque's famous novel, "All Quiet on the Western Front."

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