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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO CELEBRATE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

WITH LARGE EXHIBITION OF ART IN PROGRESS

On Wednesday, May 24, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary by presenting Art In Progress, its largest exhibition of painting and sculpture, architecture, industrial art, photography, dance and theatre design, and motion pictures. The exhibition will fill the three exhibition floors of the Museum and will be on view throughout the summer. Although principally concerned with the development of modern art in its various phases during the past fifteen years, some of the sections will, in addition, review the forerunners of today's art, and at least one section will foreshadow to some degree developments of the postwar period.

This will be the Industrial Design Section, which has been assembled and installed by Serge Chermayeff, internationally known modern architect. Mr. Chermayeff, who has been in this country since 1941 and has received his first citizenship papers, is Chairman of the Department of Design at Brooklyn College. Born in Russia, he was taken to England at an early age and received most of his education there, where he is represented by distinguished examples of architecture. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. Chermayeff has been working on the Industrial Design Section of the exhibition since last May and has assembled for it scores of objects showing not only the most progressive examples but also those which trace the development of tools, instruments, household objects, labor-saving devices, instruments of communication such as telephones, typewriters, radio cabinets, lamps and lighting fixtures and chairs. Materials will include wood, paper, plastics and various metals. The largest object in the exhibition will be an 18-foot hull molded from a single sheet of plywood for the Army by the United States Plywood Corporation, using the low pressure mold process developed by Vidal.

The newest object to be shown in the exhibition and the one most closely related to developments brought about by the war will be

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an inflated chair made of a flexible plastic very much stronger than rubber. It consists of an aluminum ring with four legs which support an inflated cushion somewhat the shape and size of a balloon tire. The entire chair frame and cushion when folded and deflated can be carried in a briefcase.

Designed primarily for use by our armed forces at bases behind the lines, it gives the comfort and ease of an upholstered spring chair, yet conserves shipping and storage space. The idea and design of the chair were developed by William Miller of the Gallowhur Chemical Corporation during months of experiment in the manufacture of a pocket-size device of inflatable plastic for use by the armed forces to convert sea water into fresh water. After the war not only the chair but other articles of inflated furniture will be made for civilian use.

Commenting on such developments, Mr. Chermayeff said:

"Acceleration of technical processes and the need for conservation of critical materials in wartime have stimulated the invention of substitutes in many fields. Some of these substitutes not only are equal in quality to the articles they represent but have resulted in improvement.

"The most advanced technology is devoted chiefly to producing military equipment. In the postwar period, however, the machine capacity of America, vastly increased by the requirements of war, will be converted to the production of consumer goods. The exhibition to be held in May will provide an opportunity for measuring the possible contribution of the designer to the postwar period, and will show that enforced conversion of material and labor has led to the elimination of superfluous elements--and has therefore been a healthy influence esthetically as well as economically."