

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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Recent Painting U.S.A.: The Figure, fourth in a series of open national exhibitions organized by the Junior Council of the Museum of Modern Art will be on view at the Museum from May 23 through September 4. Seventy-four paintings by as many artists were selected from almost 10,000 entries submitted by artists in 48 states. All works in the exhibition are for sale at prices ranging from \$150 to \$8,000. After the New York showing the exhibition will travel to Columbus, Colorado Springs, St. Louis, San Francisco, <sup>Minneapolis</sup> ~~Milwaukee~~ and New Orleans.

About half of the 63 men and 11 women have not been shown at the Museum before. Others, including Elmer Bischoff, René Bouché, George Cohen, Leon Golub, Joseph Hirsch, Richard Lindner, James McGarrell, Nathan Oliveira, Larry Rivers, Hiram Williams and Jack Zajac are all represented in the Museum collection and their work has been included in loan shows.

The purpose of the exhibition, as announced in the prospectus, is to explore "recent directions in the painting of the figure by American artists." The exhibition was conceived as a sequel to three other Junior Council shows, Young American Printmakers (1953), Recent Drawings USA (1956) and Recent Sculpture USA (1959). The selection was determined by the entries received; thus the exhibition was not intended as a comprehensive survey of contemporary figurative painting.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections who made the final selection for the exhibition, comments in the catalog introduction\*:

"Men have been painting their own image for many thousands of years but it is probable that never before, within one time and one country, has the human figure been painted with the prodigious variety of forms even this small exhibition suggests .... These human figures were painted in a period (a glorious period in American art) when the painted surface often functioned in virtual and even dogmatic independence of any represented image. Some of these pictures suggest uncertainty as to whether a painting in the 1960s can or cannot, should or should not, live by paint alone. Others seem more confident. Ambiguous or decisive, more strength to them!"

The exhibition was open to all artists who are permanent residents or citizens of the United States. All entries had to be for sale and only work done since January 1, 1958 was eligible. The exhibition was initiated in the spring of 1960 and announced in the fall of that year.

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\*Recent Painting USA: The Figure. Introduction by Alfred H. Barr, Jr. 40 pages. 33 black and white photographs. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc. 95 cents.

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By the time entries closed on March 24, 1961, 9,495 photographs and slides had been submitted by 1,841 artists. From these, 335 works by 150 artists were requested by William S. Lieberman, Dorothy C. Miller and Frank O'Hara of the Museum staff and sent to New York. From these paintings Alfred H. Barr, Jr. made the final selection of 74 works for the exhibition.

The exhibition was installed by Dorothy C. Miller, Curator of Museum Collections. Junior Council chairman of the exhibition is Mrs. David S. Christy. Co-chairmen of the Council itself are Mrs. E. Powis Jones and Walter Bareiss.

Recent Painting USA: The Figure is the seventy-third Museum exhibition devoted to contemporary American art. It will be followed by a retrospective of work by Mark Tobey.

The following artists are represented in Recent Painting USA: The Figure:

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|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aiken, William       | Golubov, Maurice         | McLarty, Jack             |
| Altman, Harold       | Goodman, Sidney          | Narotzky, Norman          |
| Beauchamp, Robert    | Goodwin, Charles Bennett | Nelson, Robert A.         |
| Beery, Gene B.       | Grippi, Salvatore        | Oliveira, Nathan          |
| Berger, Fred         | Gunther, George W.       | Pato, Barbara             |
| Bischoff, Elmer      | Hansen, Robert           | Pinkerton, Clayton        |
| Blaustein, Al        | Hennessey, James         | Pollack, Reginald         |
| Borge, Ralph W.      | Hirsch, Joseph           | Rivers, Larry             |
| Bouché, René         | Hornaday, Richard        | Rossmann, Ruth Sharff     |
| Boynton, James       | Jergens, Robert          | Ruhtenberg, Cornelis      |
| Broderson, Robert M. | Johnson, Lester          | Schnurr-Colflesh, Elinore |
| Brody, Lilly         | Kamihira, Ben            | Schwartz, Manfred         |
| Bushnell, Kenneth    | Kern, Arthur             | Seidenberg, Jean          |
| Button, John         | Kirschenbaum, Jules      | Sherman, Sarai            |
| Clutz, William       | Koppelman, Chaim         | Solbert, Ronni            |
| Cohen, George        | Koppelman, Dorothy       | Stussy, Jan               |
| Covington, Harrison  | Landau, Jacob            | Treiman, Joyce            |
| De Kooning, Elaine   | Lanyon, Ellen            | Van Dyk, James            |
| De Niro, Robert      | Leake, Eugene            | Wesselmann, Tom           |
| Du Back, Charles S.  | Lidov, Arthur            | Wheat, John               |
| Eades, Luis          | Lifson, Hugh A.          | Williams, Hiram           |
| Floyd, Stanley       | Lindner, Richard         | Wines, James              |
| Giobbi, Edward       | Maddox, Jerrold          | Wonner, Paul              |
| Golub, Leon          | Marsicano, Nicholas      | Yektai, Manoucher         |
|                      | McGarrell, James         | Zajac, Jack               |

Is There a "New" Figure Painting?, a symposium in connection with the exhibition, will be held in the Museum auditorium on Thursday, May 24 at 8:30 p.m. Speakers are George Cohen, Jacob Landau and Richard Lindner, painters represented in the exhibition; Ad Reinhardt, abstract painter; and Harold Rosenberg, critic. William C. Seitz, Associate Curator, is moderator. Tickets, \$2.25 for Museum members, \$3.00 for non-members, include admission to Museum galleries.

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Photographs and further information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.