

PRINT COUNCIL OF AMERICA
527 Madison Avenue
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For Immediate Release

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PRINT COUNCIL OF AMERICA

"AMERICAN PRINTS TODAY - 1959"

For the first time in the United States an exhibition of original prints will be shown in eight cities simultaneously, beginning September 15th. This unique event is possible because a print, being a work of graphic art, is created in multiple originals (as distinct from a painting, which is a single original).

Eight identical exhibitions, titled "American Prints Today - 1959", will open in mid-September at leading museums in different parts of the country. This multiple print show was originated by the Print Council of America, a non-profit organization promoting graphic arts, and is being carried out with financial help from the Old Dominion Foundation and the Avalon Foundation.

The exhibition consists of 62 etchings, engravings, woodcuts, lithographs, and serigraphs, done by 55 American artists between January 1956 and December 1958. These prints were selected from approximately 2000 submitted by more than 600 artists. The jury of selection consisted of William S. Lieberman, Curator of Prints, Museum of Modern Art, New York; Harold Joachim, The Art Institute of Chicago; Una Johnson, The Brooklyn Museum; Gustave von Groschwitz, The Cincinnati Art Museum; Carl Zigrosser, The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The show is a cross-section of the best work in graphics done during the past three years by artists permanently residing in the United States. Every print was chosen for the high quality of creativity and execution that it displays. Four of the prints have been awarded cash prizes of \$250 each for equal and outstanding excellence. They are: "Summer Bird" by Antonio Frasconia; "Gethsemane" by Carol Summers; "Blue Vein" by Edmond Casarella; "Lion" by Misch Kohn.

The museums in which the exhibition will be shown and its opening and closing dates are:

Baltimore Museum of Art	September 15 to October 18
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	September 15 to October 15
Cincinnati Art Museum	September 15 to October 20
Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles	September 16 to October 18
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	September 15 to October 11
Philadelphia Museum of Art	September 15 to October 30
Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Art, San Francisco	September 12 to October 18
National Gallery of Art, Washington	September ¹⁶ / ₁₅ to October 18

All prints in the exhibition will be for sale to the public and additional impressions of most of them may be ordered from the artists through the Print Council. Prices range from \$20 to \$120. Identical catalogs, illustrating every print and giving full information about the artists and the graphic media, will be on sale in all the participating museums. One complete set of the 62 prints in the exhibition has been purchased for the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Art; another was bought for the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. Additional sets as well as individual prints have been ear-marked for purchase by institutions and private collectors.

When the exhibition period closes at the museums listed above, the eight sets of prints will go to these eight institutions for another showing lasting four to six weeks:

Art Institute of Chicago	November 10 to December 6
Detroit Institute of Art	November 11 to December 22
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn.	November 10 to January 3
Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, N.H.	November 10 to December 22
Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, Tenn.	November 10 to December 20

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

November 15 to December 20

Norfolk Museum, Norfolk, Va.

November 8 to December 6

City Art Museum of St. Louis, Mo.

November 10 to December 22

This multiple exhibition, it is believed, will stimulate on a national scale the public's interest in fine graphics - particularly by contemporary American artists. The project is one of the various means which the Print Council of America is using to acquaint more people with original works of graphic art. The Council was founded in 1956 for the purpose of "fostering the creation, dissemination, and appreciation of fine prints, new and old." Its two publications, News of Prints and the Print Exhibition Calendar, go to museums, university and college art departments, graphic workshops, artists' organizations, print dealers and galleries, and the 450 individuals and groups that make up its membership. The Council's twenty-five directors include print curators, museum directors, and prominent collectors. Mr. Lessing J. Rosenwald, whose collection of fine prints and rare books in the National Gallery of Art is internationally known, is president.

"American Prints Today - 1959" will help to make clear the distinction between "fine prints" - i.e., original works of graphic art - and reproductions, which are photo-mechanical copies of someone else's work. Many persons will learn through this exhibition that good prints by contemporary artists are within their budget and may discover, perhaps for the first time, the satisfaction and joy of owning original works of art.