

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY SHOWS MAJOR PRIVATE
COLLECTION OF 20TH-CENTURY ART

WASHINGTON, D. C. August 4, 1980. The Morton G. Neumann Family Collection: Selected Works, an exhibition of approximately 140 paintings, sculpture, drawings and watercolors by major artists of the twentieth century from its inception to the present, will open in the National Gallery of Art's East Building August 31. This exhibition, the first to reveal the richness of this outstanding U.S. private collection, will continue through December 31.

The Neumann Family Collection is considered one of the most distinguished and comprehensive in the United States. Begun in 1948, when Chicago businessman Morton Neumann first visited Europe and purchased works by Pablo Picasso, the collection has grown steadily, reflecting Mr. Neumann's keen and discerning eye for emerging talent. As a result, it includes significant examples of nearly every major movement in twentieth-century art.

Among the most significant works in the exhibition are Picasso's Nude painted at Horta in 1909, Francis Picabia's dadaist Amorous Parade (1917), Joan Miró's surrealist assemblage Spanish Dancer (1928) and Roy Lichtenstein's pop art diptych Live Ammo (1962). In addition to

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providing startling contrasts, such as that between the red, white, and blue elements in Fernand Léger's Woman Sewing (1913) and the decorative design of Kim MacConnel's Yonke (1979), the exhibition presents various stylistic renderings of similar subjects, for example Picasso's Compote, Dish, Glass Bottle, and Pipe (1919), a still life of elegant and stylish objects, and Audrey Flack's super-realist Chanel No. 5 of 1974.

The exhibition has been organized by E.A. Carmean, Jr., curator of twentieth-century art at the National Gallery. The exhibition, on the upper level of the East Building, has been installed after designs by Gaillard F. Ravenel and Mark Leithauser of the Gallery's Installation and Design department, in cooperation with Mr. Carmean.

Arranged in general chronological order, the exhibition consists of eleven sections devoted to twentieth-century movements or masters. To illustrate European movements, cubist paintings by Picasso, Juan Gris, and Léger are on view; delineating orphism, futurism, and the De Stijl movements are works by Robert Delaunay, Giacomo Balla, Gino Severini, Raymond Duchamp-Villon, and Piet Mondrian; dada and surrealist examples include the work of Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Arp, Picabia, Man Ray, René Magritte, and Joseph Cornell.

American abstraction is represented by Alexander Calder, Philip Guston, Mark Rothko, Kenneth Noland, and Frank Stella. Other movements like pop, super realism and pattern painting are exemplified by Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Estes, Robert Zakanitch, and other contemporary artists.

The Neumann collection is particularly strong in work by individual masters, among them Miró, Paul Klee, Alberto Giacometti, Jean Dubuffet,

and Picasso, and the installation reflects this strength by offering separate sections devoted to each of these artists.

A fully illustrated two-volume catalogue of the collection, in which many of the works are published for the first time, will be available. It will carry a foreword by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, and an appreciation of the collection by Sam Hunter, Professor in the Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University, in addition to essays placing the works in an art-historical context by Mr. Carmean, with Eliza Rathbone, assistant curator, and Trinkett Clark, research assistant.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Gallery will present the following lectures, tours, and films, all of which are open to the public at no charge. The lectures and films will be offered in the East Building auditorium. The tours will begin in the central courtyard of that building. On Sunday, September 7, Ivan C. Karp, Director of O. K. Harris Works of Art, New York, will deliver a lecture entitled "Aspects of Imagery in the Neumann Collection," and on Sunday, September 14, Marcel Franciscano, Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, Urbana, will discuss "The Art of Paul Klee." The lectures begin at 4 p.m. Tours and films will be offered as follows:

Tours:

"The Neumann Collection: Works before 1950"
Tuesday, Sept. 16, through Saturday, Sept. 20, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 21, 2:30 p.m.

"The Neumann Collection: Works after 1950"
Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Saturday, Sept. 27, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2:30 p.m.

Films:

"Europe after the Rain" (European art after World War I)
Tuesday, Sept. 2, through Saturday, Sept. 6, 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 7, 1:00 p.m.

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"L'Etoile de Mer" and "Les Mystères du Château de Dé"
(Films by Man Ray)

Tuesday, Sept. 9, through Saturday, Sept. 13, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 14, 1:00 p.m.

"Surrealism (and Dada)" and "Homage to Magritte"

Tuesday, Sept. 16, through Saturday, Sept. 20, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21, 1:00 p.m.

"Gertrude Stein: When This You See, Remember Me"

Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 1:00 p.m.

Other related films will be shown in October and November.

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