

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY
April 1, 1954

No. 35

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL TO BE FOUNDED TO AID ART EXHIBITION PROGRAM

An International Council under the chairmanship of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, composed of 100 community leaders from all parts of the country, is being formed to help carry out the Museum of Modern Art's International Exhibitions Program, it was announced today. The International Program, inaugurated last year under the direction of Porter McCray, circulates exhibitions of American painting, sculpture, architecture, design and photography abroad and organizes exhibitions of art from abroad for circulation in this country. It has been made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

"The purpose of the International Council and of the International Exhibitions Program which the Council will assist, is to help provide for the interchange of ideas and the exchange of cultural materials which can lead to a greater understanding and mutual respect among nations," Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Museum trustee, said. "While many national governments abroad have recognized this need and supplied official means for this exchange, our own government, particularly in the field of modern art, has left this responsibility to individual enterprise and support. Such a program, however, goes well beyond the scope of any single institution and can only be carried out, we feel, through the active participation of a wide circle of advisors and supporters representing many points of view from different parts of the country. As the Museum of Modern Art is already engaged in a large-scale program providing for the sending abroad and the circulation within the United States of exhibitions dealing with most of the aspects of modern art, we are taking the lead in forming an International Council that will enlist the aid of people from other communities outside New York. The appeal for such support is not aimed at lessening loyalties to other institutions but to make possible a program on a national and international scale which will ultimately be of benefit to the entire country."

The International Council will supplement the International Program by arranging conferences, publications and other special activities. Immediate projects include the organization of exhibitions for the United States Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, just purchased by funds provided for the International Program, and the organization of an exhibition of design to be shown in the Far East, Brazil and Europe. Other future activities include the world-wide

more.....

circulation of a photography exhibition, "The Family of Man," and foreign showings of a selection from the Museum's Good Design home furnishings shows.

In addition, twenty-three American painting, architectural and graphic exhibitions, organized last year, are now touring the world under the program which the International Council will assist. The Council will also participate in the organization of exhibitions of art from abroad for circulation in this country such as an exhibition on Italian architecture and design and an exhibition on Japanese architecture which have already been prepared.

Among the men and women in various parts of the United States who have accepted the invitation of the Museum trustees to join the International Council so far are: Mrs. Gilbert W. Chapman, of New York; Mr. Ralph F. Colin, of New York; Mr. John de Menil, of Houston; Mr. Leonard C. Hanna, Jr., of Cleveland; Mrs. Walter Hochschild, of New York; Mrs. Gertrud A. Mellon, of Greenwich; Mrs. Richard Rodgers, of New York; Mrs. John Rood, of Minneapolis; Mrs. Henry Potter Russell, of San Francisco; and Mrs. Victor Zurcher, of Chicago. In addition, five members of the Museum Board, Mr. Wallace K. Harrison, Mr. James Thrall Soby, Mrs. Samuel A. Marx, Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, are members. Mrs. Rockefeller is chairman, and Mrs. Bliss Parkinson and Mr. Ralph F. Colin, well-known collector, are vice-chairmen. A small group of scholars and critics, from this country and abroad, who have achieved special distinction in the Council's sphere of interest will be invited to be honorary members.