

American Painters and Sculptors, 1953-54, Modern Art in the U.S.A., 1955-56, and Two Decades of American Painting, 1966-67.

In his label text, William S. Rubin, Chief Curator of the Painting and Sculpture Collection, writes:

"In gambling that color, to the virtual exclusion of other components of a painter's battery, could sustain great art, Rothko became a pioneer of what has since been called color-field painting ... his colored rectangles seemed to dematerialize into pure light, a bodilessness achieved through the superimposition of multiple color veils. Modernist color -- as in Impressionism and Fauvism -- is bodied forth in the robust materiality of the pigment ... To this joyous and ultimately hedonistic universe, Rothko opposed a kind of color which, even when light or pastel, seemed rather to evoke a tenebrous and meditative inner world. And his light, different from that of nature, appeared as in Byzantine art to emanate from the pictures rather than to be refracted from the environment of the spectator."

Rothko himself wrote that "painting is really a matter of ending (the) silence and solitude of breathing and stretching one's arms again."

The exhibition was installed by Alicia B. Legg, Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture.

List of works on view as a special tribute to Mark Rothko:

1. Slow Swirl by the Edge of the Sea. 1944. Oil on canvas, 6'3" x 7' 1/2". Promised gift of Mrs. Mark Rothko.
2. Number 24. (c. 1947-48). Oil on canvas, 33 1/2 x 50". Gift of the artist, 1969.
3. Untitled. (c. 1948). Oil on canvas, 8'10 1/8" x 9'9". Gift of the artist, 1969.
4. Number 18. 1949. Oil on canvas. 67 1/4 x 56". Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd. 1969.
5. Magenta, Black, Green on Orange. 1949. Oil on canvas, 85 1/2 x 64 3/4". Promised gift of Mrs. Mark Rothko.
6. Number 10. 1950. Oil on canvas, 90 3/8 x 57 1/8". Gift of Philip C. Johnson, 1951.
7. Number 22. 1950. Oil on canvas, 9'9 1/2" x 8'10 3/4". Gift of the artist, 1969.
8. Yellow and Gold. 1956. Oil on canvas, 66 x 62". Promised gift of Philip Johnson.
9. Red, Brown and Black. 1958. Oil on canvas, 8'10 5/8" x 9'9 1/4". Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund, 1959.
10. Number 19. (1958). Oil on canvas, 7'11 1/4" x 7'6 1/4". Given anonymously, 1961.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information available from Garry George, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. (212) 956 - 7504.