

The Museum of Modern Art

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Some recent developments in the medium of lithography by eleven artists will be shown in American Painters as New Lithographers, one of nine exhibitions marking the re-opening of The Museum of Modern Art on May 27. Selected by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Drawings and Prints, the exhibition of prints by Lee Bontecou, Jim Dine, Same Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Fritz Glarner, Grace Hartigan, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Robert Rauschenberg and Larry Rivers will be presented in the Museum's newly expanded and remodeled first floor galleries throughout the summer.

The works of ten of the artists represented in the show were printed and published by Universal Limited Art Editions of West Islip, Long Island, under the direction of Mrs. Tatyana Grosman. In order to bring artists of established reputation into the field of printmaking, Mrs. Grosman invited these fine artists to create a series of lithographs for her press. The first impressions of most of the resulting prints have been presented to the Museum by the Armand and Celeste Bartos Foundation.

Among these ten artists, Lee Bontecou, who is best known for her constructions of canvas, wire and welded steel, is represented by two works, "Third Stone" and "Fourth Stone" both of which were executed in 1963. "Fourth Stone" is one of five large works in the exhibition -- it measures 41 3/8" x 29 11/16" -- marking a contemporary development toward larger fine prints.

Jim Dine is one of the many artists in New York City who has produced "Happenings" and "Environments" and who makes use of a variety of objects -- old clothes, discarded materials, household objects -- in his painting. Images of such objects can also be found in his lithographs, "Four C Clamps" (1962) and "Black Bathroom" (1963). Dine is not a newcomer to graphic media, having previously worked in drypoint.

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Helen Frankenthaler and her husband, Robert Motherwell, are each represented in the exhibition by two lithographs. The Frankenthaler prints, "May 26, Backwards" (1961) and "Brown Moons" (1961), printed in three colors on oatmeal paper, have a strong calligraphic quality, as does her work in other media. Another proof of Motherwell's "Poet II" (1961) is now hanging in the American Embassy in Warsaw with a collection of works sent to Poland under the auspices of the Museum's "Art in Embassies" program. Motherwell is also represented by the color lithograph, "In Black with Yellow Ochre" (1963).

One of the first artists to work in the West Islip workshop-studio of Universal Limited Art Editions was Fritz Glarner, and his "Drawing for Tondo in Two Variations" was made there in 1959. He is also represented by two other works: "Colored Drawing" (1963) and "Color Drawing for Relational Painting" (1963).

Grace Hartigan's disciplined handling of the lithographic stone is guided by deep poetic emotion. The sequence, "The Hero Leaves His Ship" -- one of which, "The Ship" (1960) is included in this exhibition -- was inspired by, and dedicated to, the poet Barbara Guest. The color lithograph, "Pallas Athene" (1961) reflects the artist's identification with Greek classicism.

Four of the prints in the exhibition are the work of Jasper Johns, an artist who is sometimes identified as one of the innovators of what has become pop art. Along with the prints, the portfolio, "0-9," including 10 color lithographs printed in three editions -- black on off-white paper, grey on unbleached paper and in colors on white paper -- will be shown as well as the stone used for the lithographs in the portfolio. The lithographic stone is the gift of Mrs. Grosman. The Johns prints are: "0-9" (1960), "Painting with Two Balls (1962), "Device" (1962), and "Hatteras" (1963).

The prints by Barnett Newman are part of a series of "Eighteen Cantos" created earlier this year. Of the series, the artist has said, "These ... cantos are single, individual expressions, each with its unique difference. Yet, since they grew one out of the other, they also form an organic whole -- so that as they separate

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and as they join in their interplay, the orchestration ... lends additional clarity to each individual canto, and at the same time, each canto adds its song to the full chorus."

Of the six works by Robert Rauschenberg, five are lithographic prints and one, "Shades" (1964), a unique lithographic object. "Shades" consists of five movable parts, free and subject to unrestricted re-arrangement, and a stationary title plate, all set within a three-dimensional frame; each plate has been printed, by the regular lithographic process, on a sheet of plexiglass which has then been laminated to a second sheet covering the inked surface. The five prints are: "Urban" (1962), "License" (1962), "Stunt Man II" (1962), "Rival" (1963), and "Accident" (1963); the latter work won First Prize at the Fifth International Exposition of Prints in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, last summer.

The earliest works in the exhibition from Universal Limited Art Editions are "Stones," a series of twelve lithographs executed by Larry Rivers with the poet Frank O'Hara from 1957 through 1960. The series, with its painted portfolio cover, is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. Powis Jones. Four other works by Rivers are included: "Ford Chassis II" (1961), "Last Civil War Veteran II" (1961), "Lucky Strike in the Mirror II" (1960-63), and "French Money" (1963).

Sam Francis has also worked for Universal under the direction of Mrs. Grosman, the three color lithographs in this exhibition, however, were printed in Berne, Switzerland by Klipstein and Kornfeld and the print, "Damn Braces" (1960), is the gift of the publisher, E. W. Kornfeld. The other works by Francis are: "Deux Magots" (1960), the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand P. Bartos, and "The Upper Yellow" (1960), the gift of the Gottesman Foundation.

In addition to American Painters as New Lithographers, a selection of works from the Museum's Collection, selected by William Lieberman, will be shown in the new Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints on the third floor of the Museum's new east wing. The Sachs Galleries will feature Drawings from the Museum's Collection: A Selection, a survey of approximately 80 of the Museum's best drawings

acquired since 1929; and Prints by Fifteen Artists, a selection of approximately sixty original prints covering the period from 1895 to the present; as well as a group of books illustrated by André Derain from the Louis E. Stern Collection of Illustrated Books.

The opening show will be followed in the fall by Painters and Sculptors as Printmakers, and in the winter by an exhibition of books from the Louis E. Stern Collection and The Graphic Work of Dubuffet, all also under the direction of William Lieberman.

Photographs and checklist available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.