

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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11 a. m. - 4 p. m.

ALEXANDER ARCHIPENKO: THE PARISIAN YEARS, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from July 21 through October 18, 1970. The exhibition, composed of 33 works, surveys the late artist's sculpture, reliefs, drawings and prints done between 1908 and 1921, the years in which he lived in Paris.

William S. Lieberman, Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, notes, "As a sculptor, Archipenko explored spatial relationships and the movement of forms. He was also particularly interested in the uses of color in sculpture. No matter how abstract his analysis, his inspiration derived from nature. Throughout his life, he remained a solitary figure. Although an innovator, he always remained close to the Cubist tradition as it was established in France during the years of his sojourn there."

In 1908, when he was 21, Archipenko left his native Russia for France, where he remained until 1921 when he moved to Berlin. Two years later he settled in the United States. He died in New York in 1964.

"By 1913," comments Mr. Lieberman, "Archipenko had found the direction of his personal style, and in the same year he exhibited in the famous Armory Show in New York. The significance of his work during his heroic years in France can be clearly revealed only by comparison with the contemporaneous and Cubist sculpture of Raymond Duchamp-Villon, Henri Laurens, Jacques Lipchitz, and Pablo Picasso."

The illustrated checklist* that accompanies the exhibition contains an essay by the critic, Katharine Kuh, who comments that as early as 1912, Archipenko combined wood, glass, mirror, metal, canvas, and wire to manipulate light and exploit

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*ARCHIPENKO: THE PARISIAN YEARS. 6 pages, 6 illustrations (in color); introduction by William S. Lieberman; essay by Katharine Kuh; checklist of the exhibition. 25 cents.

reflections and transparencies. However, she writes, "his greatest contribution was metaphysical. He made what is, seem what is not. It was the duality of vision that interested him, less the image itself than our reaction to the image. Turning total voids into solid form, he also discovered that surrounding space could become as potent as dense mass."

For assistance in organizing the exhibition, Mr. Lieberman has expressed particular gratitude to the estate of the artist and Donald H. Karshan. Mr. Karshan gave Statue on Triangular Base to the Museum last year, and Boxing several years earlier. In addition to loans from the Archipenko estate and an anonymous private collection, lenders to the exhibition are: Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Getler, Roslyn Harbor, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Hessisches Landesmuseum of Darmstadt, Germany; the Pasadena Art Museum; Mr. and Mrs. Klaus G. Perls of New York; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Works from the Museum's own collection in the show also include gifts from Mrs. Frances Archipenko; Klaus Perls; and Mr. and Mrs. Murray Thompson.

ARCHIPENKO: THE PARISIAN YEARS was originally conceived by William C. Agee, former Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum. It was installed by Wilder Green, Director of the Exhibition Program. Selections from the show will tour the United States and Canada.

Additional information available from Linda K. Nathan, Associate, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7294.