

The Museum of Modern Art

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The ramifications of the Cubist movement, widespread and often unexpected, are explored in Cubism and Its Affinities, an exhibition of 99 drawings and prints on view in the Paul J. Sachs Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art through May 9. Selected and installed by William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings, the exhibition offers works by artists from more than a dozen countries working in several movements in addition to Cubism - Futurism, Constructivism, and de Stijl.

Cubism was described by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., the first director of the Museum as "A movement in painting which involved the disintegration or transformation of natural forms into compositions of flat, usually angular and sometimes overlapping or transparent planes." The progenitors of the movement were Picasso and Braque, both of whom are represented; Braque by four works, and Picasso by 15, including a group of collages and a series of six works dating from 1906 to 1909 in which the human figure is radically altered.

Picasso and Braque chose their subject matter, usually figures or still lifes, from the studios in which they worked. Later artists focused the Cubist-experience on the dynamism of the city, the machine, and industrial life. This can be seen in such works as Robert Delauney's The Tower, a Cubist drawing of the Eiffel Tower, Lyonel Feininger's woodcut Street in Paris, and the American John Marin's etching Brooklyn Bridge. Also on view are ten works by the Italian Futurist Boccioni, including his drawing for The City Rises, and pure abstractions by Constructivists in Russia--Lissitzky, Malevich, and Rodchenko--as well as works by the three members of the de Stijl movement in the Netherlands --van der Leek, van Doesburg, and Mondrian.

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