

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAMES THRALL SOBY BEQUEST ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A selection of paintings and sculpture from the more than fifty paintings, sculptures, and works on paper bequeathed to The Museum of Modern Art by the late James Thrall Soby will be on view in the Museum's Lobby from March 22 through April, 1979. A distinguished writer, collector, and curator, Mr. Soby (1906-1979) was a Trustee of The Museum of Modern Art, and its Director of Painting and Sculpture in the 1940s. From 1946 to 1967 he was Chairman of the Painting and Sculpture Department.

The exhibition, which is being directed by Alicia Legg, Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture, concentrates on two of Mr. Soby's major interests: Giorgio de Chirico and Surrealism. The eight canvases by de Chirico on view, all from his "metaphysical" period between 1913 and 1919, will join six excellent examples already in the Museum, and will constitute the finest collection of de Chirico in the world. Outstanding among the works in the Soby collection that demonstrate Surrealist fantasy are Picasso's Seated Woman of 1927, Tanguy's The Mood of Now, 1928, Miro's 1929 Portrait of Mrs. Mills in 1750, and Still Life with Old Shoe, 1937, Matta's Here Sir Fire, Eat, 1942, and the post-surrealist painted bronze Tall Figure, 1949 by Alberto Giacometti.

James Thrall Soby's museum career began at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, where in 1931 he helped organize the first museum exhibition of Surrealism and, three years later, the first Picasso retrospective ever held in this country. One of his first activities with The Museum of

