EXHIBITION LOOKS AT THE DIVERSITY OF STYLES DISPLAYED IN SCHOOL OF PARIS ART 1920–60

*Paris Salon*

March 16–August 22, 2000

Second Floor

April 30–September 26, 2000

Third Floor

*Paris Salon* samples the range of painting and sculpture that appeared in Paris during the 1920s through the 1950s. On view as part of *Making Choices*, the second cycle of *MoMA2000*, which focuses on the period 1920 through 1960, *Paris Salon* comprises some 38 paintings and sculptures. The exhibition opens in two parts: works completed prior to World War II and the German occupation are installed on the Museum’s second floor from March 16 through August 22, 2000, while postwar paintings and sculptures are displayed on the third floor from April 30 through September 26, 2000. *Paris Salon* was organized by Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, Department of Photography; Robert Storr, Senior Curator, and Anne Umland, Associate Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture.

Paris before and after World War II was a magnet for artists of many different nationalities, generations, and stylistic persuasions. The sheer variety of artworks that could be seen at any given moment in the French capital testifies to the irrepressible creativity of the Parisian art scene. *Paris Salon* emphasizes the diversity of styles by juxtaposing works that often have little in common and explores selected affinities between acknowledged masterpieces such as Henri Matisse’s view of Nice, *Interior with a Violin Case* (1918), and lesser-known works such as Raoul Dufy’s *Window at Nice* (1929). The second floor of the exhibition includes works by Alexander Calder, Marc Chagall, Joan Miró, Gerald Murphy, Amédée Ozenfant, and Pablo Picasso, among others.

Postwar Paris witnessed the emergence and reemergence of figures as distinct as Jean Dubuffet and Alberto Giacometti, as well as a generation of younger abstract painters, including Pierre Soulages, Nicolas de Staël, and Marie Hélène Vieira da Silva. During the late 1940s and 1950s, the works of the European abstract painters provided parallels to those of the American Abstract Expressionists whose works will be on view in *New York Salon*—a distinct exhibition that serves as a conceptual counterpart to *Paris Salon*. Soulages’s *Painting* (1948-49), for instance, displays stylistic similarities to Franz Kline’s black-and-white gesture paintings. Displayed in close proximity to Giacometti’s frail, attenuated figurative sculptures, such as *Standing Woman (Femme debout)* (1948), and Dubuffet’s crude, caricatural paintings,
among others, these works underscore the heterogeneity of modern art and the competing definitions of modernity. New York Salon is also on view on the Museum’s third floor from April 30 through September 26, 2000.

SPONSORSHIP

Making Choices

is part of MoMA2000, which is made possible by The Starr Foundation. Generous support is provided by Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro in memory of Louise Reinhardt Smith. The Museum gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Contemporary Exhibition Fund of The Museum of Modern Art, established with gifts from Lily Auchincloss, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, and Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Jerry I. Speyer and Katherine G. Farley, and by The Contemporary Arts Council and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art. Education programs accompanying MoMA2000 are made possible by Paribas. The publication Making Choices: 1929, 1939, 1948, 1955 is made possible by The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The interactive environment of Making Choices is supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Web/kiosk content management software is provided by SohoNet.

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