

## NOTES

From James Glisson's gallery talk 11/20/24

Ridley-Tree Reinstallation

### ***Modern Life: A Global Art World***

This reinstallation of the Ridley-Tree gallery is composed almost entirely of works from the permanent collection with a handful of loans from the Hammer Foundation. The reinstallation looks at time and culture and how they are reflected in and related to art. The theme is Modern Life beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Technological innovations such as the laying of cable, which lead to instantaneous communication and railroads, which lead to increased travel precipitated this cultural change. This new Modern Life took place against a background of colonization of the world's continents by Europe. Artists began traveling and bringing new ideas and techniques to different parts of the world. As an example, Joaquin Torres-Garcia brought abstraction back from Paris to his native Uruguay. The reinstallation centers the art around themes. There is also a timeline wall, which traces the evolution of SBMA over the 83 years of its existence using archival images.

#### **ABSTRACTION**

Abstraction is a global language and a global art movement illustrated by the variety of artists shown from different parts of the world. Some of the works in this section include:

- "Mirage"**, Josef Albers, 1940 (German)
- "Line-Spot, Line-Fleck"**, Vassily Kandinsky, 1927 (Russian)
- "Composition"**, Joaquin Torres-Garcia, 1932 (Uruguayan)
- "Composition"**, Adolph Gottlieb, 1947 (New York based)
- "Pont Saint-Michel"**, Henri Matisse, 1901 (French)
- "Mal de Ojo"**, Gunther Gerzso, 1957 (Mexican)
- "Football Painting #2"**, Theophilus Brown (California based)

#### **Industry, Science, Art**

Urbanization and the effects of pollution, works include:

- "Venice Beach Oil Derricks at Night"**, John Decker, 1933
- "November, Washington Square"**, Edward Hopper, 1932 – a cold unfriendly view of NYC
- "The Statue of Liberty in Bartholdi's Studio, Paris"**, Paul-Joseph-Victor Dargaud, 1884
- "A View of Paris from the Trocadero"**, Berthe Morisot, 1871 – urban renewal, Hausmanization
- "Steaming Streets"**, George Bellows, 1908, - gritty NYC life

**“Waterloo Bridge”, “Charing Cross Bridge”, Claude Monet, 1899, 1900 – pollution in London**

### **PARIS, EUROPE, TOURISM AND TRAVEL**

This was the beginning of mass tourism.

**“Königssee”, Frederic Edwin Church, 1868 – Lake Königssee in Bavaria**

**“Le Port de St. Cloud”, Leonard Tsuguharu Foujita, 1939 – Paris by a Japanese artist**

**“Summertime”, Mary Cassatt, 1894**

**“Foreign Visitors in the Louvre”, James Tissot, 1883-1885 – tourists exploring the Louvre**

### **FLOWERS, LANDSCAPES, GARDENS**

In spite of mass dislocation of people as well as wars that were taking place at this time, artists chose to portray scenes with no sense of social turmoil. Sometimes art responds to the world by looking away.

Landscapes-

**“Paysage a Osny, Vue de la Ferme”, Camille Pissarro, 1883**

**“Villas in Bordighera”, Claude Monet, 1884**

**“Dead Cottonwood Tree”, Georgia O’Keefe, 1943**

**“Garden with a Small Bridge”, Pierre Bonnard, 1937**

Flowers – This section highlights the depth and breadth of the museum’s collection – wide variety of technique

**“Jarron Azul de Flores”, Alfredo Ramos Martinez, 1935**

**“Journey to the Sun”, Florine Stettheimer, 1927**

**“Fuchsias and French Marigolds”, Edouard Vuillard, 1903**

### **GLOBAL SURREALISM**

Surrealism coalesced around Andre Breton in France, but quickly became an international movement. Surrealists fled Paris and spread surrealism around the globe.

**“Second Song”, Kay Sage, 1943**

**“Honey is Sweeter than Blood”, Salvador Dali, 1941**

**“Noche y Dia”, Rufino Tamayo, 1953 – surrealist elements**

**“The Casting of the Spell”, Wilfredo Lam, 1947 – making modern images about Cuban culture of Santeria**

## **MID-CENTURY MODERNISM**

Noguchi is in conversation with McLaughlin – a sense of stillness inside of us. Cruz-Diez has some similarities with McLaughlin

**“Ceremony”**, Isamu Noguchi, 1982

**“Number 5”**, John McLaughlin, 1961

**“Psychromie No. 352”**, Carlos Cruz-Diez, 1967

**“Equal Tea Talk”**, **“Four Times Around”**, **“Jelly Centers”**, 1969, Frederick Hammersley – one of the earliest computer generated drawings

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photos on rotation

## **SATIRICAL PRINTS AND CARICATURES**

Print works by artists from France, Japan and Mexico

## **RODIN AND OTHERS**

Focus on Auguste Rodin, who was considered to be the first modern sculptor with a much more expressive approach than had been seen before.

**“Walking Man”**, Auguste Rodin, 1903

**“Burghers of Calais: Head”**, Auguste Rodin, 1886

**“Head of Balzac”**, Auguste Rodin, 1892

As well as other non-commissioned nudes by Rodin.

These sculptures reflect the sculptural process and the impact of economics , impetus to make money by casting multiple copies.

## **TIMELINE**

Archival images that help to tell the rich and interesting history of SBMA. Different pieces are connected with the museum history.

**Self Portrait**, Rico Lebrun, 1940 – artist in residence at SBMA

