

H O N O L U L U A C A D E M Y O F A R T S



December, 1962

*The Trustees of the Honolulu Academy of Arts
cordially invite you to attend the opening
of the exhibition ART: USA: NOW shown through the
courtesy of S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. on Friday evening,
January 4th, 1963, from 8:00 to 11:00 o'clock.*

The exhibition will continue through January 27th, 1963.

ART: USA: NOW

The greatest exhibition of contemporary American art ever to be shown in Hawaii, a collection that is considered the finest in existence, will go on view here January 4, and continue through January 27.

This exhibition, titled ART: USA: NOW, is the collection purchased last spring by S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. The 102 paintings in this collection catch a moment in the development of U. S. art—and the moment they catch is now. Only nine of the 102 works were painted before 1959; all but one of the artists included are living; most of the artists are represented in the great art museums and private collections in the United States.

ART: USA: NOW is considered so important that it was reported upon by TIME magazine last July and again in September, with color photographs of a number of the paintings. Called the "best of the best" by the magazine, the collection is the largest single industrial investment in art to date. It is as representative a view of contemporary American art as can be found. The collection will instantly rate high in comprehensibility; at least two-thirds of the paintings are representational, ranging from abstractions with the merest suggestion of an image, through the surrealistic to outright realism.

ART: USA: NOW ably demonstrates that the techniques of splash, drip and blot have given way to a new craftsmanship in painting. Many of the artists represented are old masters of modern art—Willem de Kooning, Walter Stuempfig, Hans Hofman, Morris Graves, Loren MacIver, Stuart Davis, Charles Burchfield, Edward Hopper, Jack Levine, Georgia O'Keefe, Mark Tobey, Ben Shahn, and Charles Sheeler, to name but a few. With the works of these masters is also shown a selection of work by a substantial number of younger or lesser-known painters, who forecast the future of U. S. painting.

The exhibition was assembled for its first showing in the Milwaukee Art Center last September and October. Subsequently it has been seen in only one other city, Tokyo. From Honolulu it will travel to London and many other European and Asian cities. Traveling with the exhibit is its curator, Mr. Joseph B. Messing, formerly on the staff of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have explained their decision to acquire the collection as an "act of faith in American art, and, at the same time, an experiment by a business firm in international relations, on a people-to-people basis." S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. first exercised visionary foresight in the arts a number of years ago when it engaged architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design its administration and research center in Racine, Wisconsin.

Remember, this exhibit will be shown for only three weeks. We urge you not to miss seeing it.

WILLIAM A. MCGONAGLE
Assistant to the Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Academy is profoundly indebted to S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. for making the exhibition described above possible. With ART: USA: NOW the Academy will embark upon a new year filled with promise, in which the accent from the point of view of exhibitions will be on the modern. This is not to say, however, that the arts of the past will be neglected. As an art museum of a general nature, it is the Academy's responsibility to exercise its educational function on a broad platform. Our constant attempt is to bring as wide a variety as possible of esthetic experience to the people of Hawaii and our visitors from all parts of the world.

At this season of the year, giving preoccupies us all, and we would like to use some of these lines to express the gratitude of the Board of Trustees and the Administration to those thousands of friends of the Academy who have given material expression of their interest during 1962 through their gifts — in the form of membership fees, contributions to special funds or projects, donations of works of art, or hundreds upon hundreds of hours of volunteer services — which in turn have made it possible for the Academy to give to the public. By year's end, well over one hundred thousand visitors will have been recorded.

Since the Academy is a museum, its collections remain the central focus of the institution. Progress in building these collections has been most heartening during the past year and has come to a sort of climax this month. We look forward to being able soon to place on view some of the most beautiful and distinguished works of art ever to come to Honolulu.

Because of the spectacular growth of the collections within recent years, the Academy will revive its Bulletin, last published in 1953, the first issue now being readied for appearance in the spring. The new series of the Bulletin is planned as a richly illustrated Quarterly containing authoritative articles on works of art in the museum. The Members' Calendar will be discontinued, but the Newsletter will still be published at irregular intervals.

The Trustees and Staff of the Academy send each of you their sincere greetings of the season and their best wishes for a bright and happy New Year.

ROBERT P. GRIFFING, JR.
Director

News Letter

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