

Bulletin of
The Detroit Institute of Arts
of the City of Detroit



HEAD OF A BOY
PABLO PICASSO
COLLECTION OF WALTER P. CHRYSLER, JR.

WALTER P. CHRYSLER, JR. EXHIBITION

The Art Institute will exhibit in October (5-31) the private collection of Mr. Walter P. Chrysler, Jr. This important collection of twentieth century art contains some 170 works of art, of which about half are oils, half drawings and watercolors, and in addition, 9 pieces of sculpture.

One of the sources of interest in a private collection is that it represents a single taste and thus gains a concentration of effect which no public collection, as the work of a group, ever has. The Chrysler collection represents a notable assemblage of modern artists, but its special character comes from the owner's interest in the development of abstract art. The School of Paris is most fully represented, but there are also American, German, Dutch, English and Mexican artists included. The outstanding feature of the collection is its representation of Picasso, Bracque and Leger. Picasso, in particular, is shown in all the diversity of the extraordinary genius which has gone through a score of mutations but has always kept him the dominating artist personality in the first thirty years of this century. Far from the least important sources of his influence upon artists' and upon collectors' taste throughout the world, has come from his facility as a draughtsman. The fugitive pieces in pen, watercolor and gouache, which represent the periods of reflection and the tentative studies in which an artist feels out new ideas, have in Picasso's case been as eagerly studied as his oils. The collection is rich in these as well as in the oils, so that this strange genius, as fascinating to the artist as he has been baffling to the layman for the past thirty years, is well represented in this collection. His work, taken together with the

fine groups of Bracque and Leger, forms a record of singular interest for that prolonged, exhaustive effort which the artists of Paris have made in the twentieth century to create a new pictorial language. This aspect of modern art, abstraction, is the one which is least represented in our own collection. It is the aspect which has interested Mr. Chrysler the most, although the Expressionist tendencies of German and American artists are also well represented in his collection.

A well illustrated catalog of the exhibit will be of value, we believe, to all who are interested in twentieth century developments in art.

STAFF CHANGES

The death of Miss Josephine Walther, Associate Curator of American Art, on Thursday, September 2, 1937, after a protracted illness severs a relationship of more than fifteen years. Born in Lexington, Michigan, Miss Walther taught school there before coming to Detroit. She joined the staff of the Detroit Museum of Art in 1920 as general assistant and showed such interest and capacity for her work that with the building of the new Art Institute, and enlargement of the staff, she was given the post of Curator of American Art. She specialized particularly in the decorative arts of earlier times, making an important contribution in building up the collections of early American glass, furniture and silver, much of which is assembled in Whitby Hall and adjacent galleries. She also rendered invaluable assistance in editing the Bulletin, special exhibition catalogues and other museum publications.

Harold T. Shaw has been appointed through Civil Service to the position of Building Superintendent to take the place of Otis G. Baker, who died in April after thirty years of service. Mr. Shaw was born in the city of Detroit, where he attended the public schools, and later graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree of B.S. in Civil Engineering. After six years in the practice of his profession, in which he gained practical experience in planning and construction, he entered the service of the City of Detroit in August, 1930, serving with the Detroit Water Board and later with the Department of Building and Safety Engineering. It was from the latter department that he was promoted to his present position.

FALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

REGULAR GALLERY TALKS

For the first half of its season the Institute offers a series of ten one-hour lectures in the galleries (where chairs are provided) surveying the history of art up to the Renaissance as it is represented in the collections. Talks are given by members of the staff at 3:30 Wednesday afternoons and repeated Thursday evenings at 7:45. Subjects:

- Oct. 13-14, Arts and Crafts of Pre-historic Man.
- Oct. 20-21, Egypt and Mesopotamia: The Emergence of Western Art.
- Oct. 27-28, The Greek Ideal.
- Nov. 3-4, The Moslem East: The Charm of Decoration.
- Nov. 10-11, Forty Centuries of Chinese Art.
- Nov. 17-18, Japanese Temples and Houses.
- Nov. 24-25, American Art Before Columbus.

Dec. 1-2, The Practical Romans as Artists.

Dec. 8-9, Byzantium and the Triumph of Christian Art.

Dec. 15-16, Gothic Europe.

ORGAN RECITALS

Following the regular gallery talk each Thursday evening, Mr. Edgar Danby, concert organist, will present an hour of organ music in the Institute auditorium. Together with the more familiar music for organ he will offer each week one or more of the less-known but highly important compositions from the great body of organ literature. Admission is free.

SPECIAL GALLERY TALKS

Any group of ten or more persons may arrange for a talk by a member of the staff on any part of the Institute collections by phoning the Educational Department at Columbia 0360. The chairmen of club art committees are cordially invited to consult with the Educational Staff concerning program arrangements to be held in the museum. A tentative list of subjects will be sent upon request.

SCHOOLS

A program of children's education has been arranged by Marion Heath, working in cooperation with the Detroit schools. Beginning Oct. 19, she will offer a series of five illustrated talks, The Pageant of History, based on the Institute's collections and designed especially for public school classes in history, social science, and languages. The talks will be given on Tuesdays at 2:30, and will be followed by trips through the galleries.

The Chronicles of America series of motion pictures will be presented on Saturday mornings at 10:15 in the

auditorium. Free tickets for this series of eleven films are distributed *only* through the city schools.

All Detroit and Michigan teachers who wish to supplement their classroom work by visits to certain galleries are invited to consult with the Educational Department and arrange for a guide—Columbia 0360.

LECTURES

A series of eight illustrated lectures constituting "A Survey of Textile Art" will be offered by Mrs. Adele Coulin Weibel, curator of textiles, at 8:30 Tuesday evenings in the lecture hall. Her topics and their dates are:

- Oct. 26, Introduction: Aesthetics, Material, Technique.
- Nov. 2, Silk Trade in the Roman Empire.
- Nov. 9, The Fabrics of the Sasanian and Roman Empires.
- Nov. 16, Mohammed and His Followers.
- Nov. 23, Textile Art in Mediaeval Italy.
- Nov. 30, The Pomegranate Pattern.
- Dec. 7, Textiles of the Renaissance and Baroque.
- Dec. 14, The Eighteenth Century: Climax of the Textile art and the Fusion of East and West.

WAYNE UNIVERSITY COURSES

Six courses in art history, conducted for Wayne University at the Institute by members of the staff, are scheduled for the first half of the school year. Graduate and undergraduate credit is given for students registering at Wayne. Non-credit

students may register at the Institute. The fee is the same for all students. Courses are as follows:

History and Appreciation of Art—Ancient to 1000 A.D., Mr. Rathbone.

History and Appreciation of Medieval Art, Mrs. Weibel.

Survey of Far Eastern Art, Dr. Scheyer.

History and Appreciation of Baroque Art, Dr. Scheyer.

Modern Art—Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, Mr. Richardson.

The Art and Culture of the Old Orient (Egypt and Mesopotamia), Dr. Lechler.

DRAWING CLASSES

The Department of Recreation again offers its drawing class in the lower floor galleries of the Institute, beginning at 7:00 Friday evening, Oct. 15, and continuing every Friday at the same time. Competent instructors and a model are provided for beginners and advanced students, who register for the class through the Department of Recreation. The registration fee is \$2.00.

VISITING HOURS

Beginning October 1, the Institute will resume winter visiting hours: Sunday, 2-6; Monday, closed; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 1-5 and 7-10; Wednesday, 1-5; Saturday, 9-5. The Russel A. Alger House branch of the Detroit Institute of Arts, located at 32 Lakeshore Road, Grosse Pointe, will continue on its regular schedule: 1-5 every day except Monday, when it is closed all day. Admission to both buildings is free at all times.