PROGRAM

(1) We have agreed that the most direct approach to our objective is the exhibition of our work. We shall show together at least once a year, making it constantly our effort to have our annual, or more frequent, exhibitions present in a dignified and competent way all the significant "abstract" work done in America. There is no limitation upon our members showing with other groups. On the contrary, we wish to encourage our members to form separate discussion and exhibition groups which may each have a more unified character than our general organization.

(2) American Abstract Artists will provide opportunities for group discussion and experimentation among its members.

(3) In addition to such publicity as attends our exhibitions, we shall undertake when possible a broader and more general type of educational publicity, such as a magazine, a year-book, pamphlets or public lectures.

American Abstract Artists invite into an Associate Membership those individuals who do not wish, or who are not entitled, to exhibit with us, but who otherwise are in sympathy with our general purpose.

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS

GENERAL PROSPECTUS

GENERAL PURPOSE

Our purpose is to unite American "abstract" artists, (1) to bring before the public their individual works, (2) to foster public appreciation of this direction in painting and sculpture, (3) to afford each artist the opportunity of developing his own work by becoming familiar with the efforts of others, by recognising differences as well as those elements he may have in common with them.

CHARACTER OF THE GROUP

We believe that a new art form has been established which is definite enough in character to demand this unified effort. We recognize, however, the need for individuals to experiment and deviate at times from what may seem established directions. For this reason we place a liberal interpretation upon the word "abstract", a word which we moreover recognize as neither adequate nor accurate.

What we desire is a broad inclusive organization of all artists in this country who have produced work which is sufficiently in character with this liberal conception of the word "abstract". We invite into our membership the best known "abstract" artists in America, as well as those who are totally unknown. We invite also the members of any other similar groups, assuring them that to join with us does not conflict with their own group relationships.

MEMBERSHIP

Full members of American Abstract Artists bind themselves to contribute a certain sum each month (at present this amounts to 50 cents a month) to defray current organization expenses. The sum of \$5 from each member is expected to cover the costs of hiring a gallery for the forthcoming exhibition, and a further sum of about \$5 each should cover the necessary outlay for publicity. (These amounts may vary as the group membership varies. All members are expected to contribute exactly the same amounts.)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate Members of American Abstract Artists bind themselves to contribute only the same regular monthly dues (see above) as do the full members, and are entitled to take part in all cultural, intellectual, literary or educational activites of the group on the same basis as full members. They may not exhibit unless they become full members. They will also have no vote in business meetings of the organization for deciding policies, programs, activities, finances, etc., of the group.

NEW MEMBERS

It is the express desire of American Abstract Artists to include within its membership as broad and representative a number of painters and sculptors, working in the "abstract" direction, as possible.

Since the so-called "abstract" movement has, however, grown to far greater proportions, and enlisted a far greater number of American artists and students than most of us are aware of, it was felt that, to ensure a certain standard of clarity of statement, achievement, unity, etc., in the public exhibitions, some sort of control must be excercised. It was therefor decided that artists whose work was not well

known to a majority of the present group, but who would like to join, be asked to submit examples of their best work, (preferably finished paintings, or photographs in the case of sculptors or out-of-town painters) and these works would be passed upon by secret ballot by a majority of those present at a meeting consisting of at least two thirds of the entire membership.

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

The present membership (January, 1937) of American Abstract Artists consists of the following names: George McNeil, Jeanne Carles, A. N. Christie, C. R. Holty, Harry Holtzman, Marie Kennedy, Ray Kaiser, W. M. Zogbaum, Ibram Lassaw, Gertrude Peter Greene, Byron Browne, Rosalind Bengelsdorf, George L. K. Morris, Vaclav Vytlacil, Paul Kelpe, Balcomb Greene, R. D. Turnbull, Frederick J. Whiteman, John Opper, Albert Swinden, Ilya Bolotowsky, George Cavallon, Leo Lances, Alice Mason, Esphyr Slobodkina, Werner Drewes, Richard Taylor, Josef Albers.

The membership is steadily increasing, so that this list is far from definitive.

ADDRESS

All communications or inquiries should be adressed to

R. D. Turnbull, Secretary
51 West 10th Street,

New York City.

NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1937

JEROME KLEIN

ABSTRACT ARTISTS MAKE NEW STAND

Thirty-nine Painters and Sculptors Mustered in Group Showing at Squib Building

Put down under "prosperity notes" the revival of abstract art. Well night put to rout by the rush toword social realism in depression years, abstractionists now rally for a new stand. A band of thirty-nine has been mustered for the first exhibition on view in the Squibb Building by the recently organized American Abstract Artists.

Youth predominates and some of the most interesting things are by artists as yet hardly known to the public. I would cite among these the pan tings of George McNeil, who designs with spontaneity and a real painter's sense of tonal modulation; Hananiah Marari's work, particu-Hannaniah Harari's work, sculpture of the "spare-rib" variety by Ibrim Lassaw; Esphyr Slobodkina's canvales, with their involved stage-wing spaces and the work of Harry Bowden and Anne Cohen.

Out of the more seasoned ranks come Louis Schanker's brilliant big figure piece, a handsome bronze by Warren Wheelock, novel constructions of sliced toy ten pins by Yaclav Vytlacil and paintings by Josef Albers, which I count the most mature and original in the

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Schanker Show on View.

Louis Schanker, having an exhibition of his recent work now at the Artists Gallery, is an American. Though he has had one-man shows before this, he is perhaps best known to the public through his large and widely reproduced mural decoration executed last summer for municipal radio station WNYC.

summer for municipal radio station WNYC.

Schanker is one of the more personal and original of our younger crop of abstract painters. He has a light and witty touch, building his pictures not of rigid geometrical masses but of spontaneous-appearing though carefully conceived calligraphic patterns laid onto fresh and sparkling color. Sometimes the patterns cling closely enough to reality for one to distinguish recognizable forms. At others they're completely abstract, and if they suggest reality at all it's in the movement of things, rather than in their shape. (The picture Schanker calls Football 1, is a good example of this.)

But all of his pictures—whether they're primarily linear patterns on color, like Musicians; or Composition III, which has, in its arrangement of its jagge motifs, something of the character of primitive embroideries; or the more solid than usual (for Schanker Composition 1 and 1 and

Composition I—reveal his genuine talent.

SCHANKER, MURAL ARTIST EXHIBIT AT THE ARTISTS' GALLERY

Sugar Loaf and Warwick friends of Louis Schanker will learn with interest that he has an exhibit at The Artists' Gallery, 33 West 8th Street, New York city of recent paintings, woodcults, sculpture. Exhibit is from Nov. 14th to Dec. 5th and hours are from 10 - 9 daily and Sunday 3-9. Mr. and Mrs. Schanker have leased a cottage on the Charles Wisner Barrell farm at Sugar Loaf for several years. His murals at the World's Fair received great praise.





Louis Schanker's wood sculpture, Abstracted Man (center) and oil, Three Men on a Bench (right) at the American Abstract Artists' Squibb Building Exhibition, 1937

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS

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initial exhibition of the American Abstract Artists, held last year at the Squibb Building in New York, on the whole was a bracing and fresh display showing that some excellent work was being done and holding promise for the future. Discernible influences for the most part came from the right quarters. Not many of the exhibits were too derivative. The second exhibition was held in February of this year, forty-four members exposing their work. One perceived in this show that a healthy development was taking place and considerably more maturity. With their talents ripening, it is not unreasonable to expect that certain of the group will continue to make progress and later reveal even areater accomplishment and invention.

The soil here is fertile, not over-cultivated, as in many European countries, and from it we may reasonably expect vigorous art forms eventually to emerge. André Gide, writing of the U.S.S.R., and Thomas Mann writing of conditions in Germany, have told us of the plight of the artist in countries where intellectual liberty does not exist. Americans therefore should be on their quard against the importation of political beliefs and subversive activities which run counter to the doctrines for which America fought the Revolution. The U.S. A., where all races are mingled, where citizens of other countries have brought their national cultures, especially memories of highly significant peasant arts, is favorably situated: Remy de Gourmont states that the "United States if closed to immigration would fall into complete languor," going on to remind us that "There is not a century since the Eleventh during which French thought has not been revived by some foreign ferment" and that "The national spirit is no more thwarted by these absorptions than the blood of man is vitiated by healthy food." In recent times we know what stimulant French painting received from Negro sculpture

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Yet another ward may perhaps be permitted with regard to the aims of non-representative painting, not in defense, but in explanation. One recalls the desire of Hokusci to live long enough to be able to reduce life to a single tone, a single line. Oriental nations have rarely attached any special importance to subject. For the initiated, and the spectator must be able to meet the artist half way, the pure enjoyment of painting is often marred by the intrusion of subject-matter, just as scenery and costumes distract certain people at the opera. In China scenery at theatrical productions has never been employed except symbolically: the most convincing play given in New York this past season was equally bereft of scenery and costumes. The upward plunge of New York's skyscraping buildings, so stark and majestic, is in most instances impaired by superimposed and irrevelent Gothic or Romanesque ornaments. Let not the artist be afraid to divest his work of all non-essentials.

INTRODUCTION

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It is encouraging, as it is gratifying, to learn that the group known as the American Abstract Artists has been successful in arranging an exhibition of work by its members for display in a group of museums throughout the West. Upon the conclusion of this tour it is hoped that it may be possible to show their paintings, sculptures and constructions in certain of the Eastern museums as well.

The execution of this further programme would also be highly desirable, although possibly more difficult of attainment, for most of the Eastern museums are scarcely more than dusty repositories of the art of past ages. Such institutions when they do open their doors to contemporary efforts are usually so cautious and opposed to experimentation and exploration, upon which, Henry James reminds us, art lives, that all genuine creative work is excluded. But it is to be hoped that some museums on the Eastern seaboard, less timorous, will be glad to hang this demonstration of living art, as they have on certain occasions welcomed exhibitions of this character in the past.

There is no doubt that the efforts being made by most of the painters and sculptors constituting the American Abstract Artists are definitely pointed in the right direction. No other group concerned with the fine arts in this country is as likely to produce an authentic American cultural expression. Their approach to the problems of painting is the correct one; they seek plastic qualities in their work and regard all subject-matter as extraneous. Their concern is with the fundamental principles of form, design, construction and the functioning of color, as understood by the great masters. Giotto, Uccello and El Greco are among their spiritual ancestors, and, more recently, Cézanne and Seurat. All belonged to the great main current which flowed down with the weakening of the aristocratic tradition, and then received great impetus from the innovations of Picasso, Braque, Gris and Léger, who cleared away the debris and gave to the world new and imaginative art forms. The stark bones of the great traditions may also be discerned in Mondrain's tense lines and rectangles of tundamental color; high points of Twentieth Century painting.

By completely eliminating all subject-matter, which was a necessity for the Old Masters, historical and documentary recorders as they were for the most part, and propagandists for the Church, such artists as Mandrian have purified painting, have given us painting for its own sake in the same sense that music exists for itself alone, as is it also possible for architecture.

Vastly encouraging I find it for the cause of American painting and sculpture to see how this group has developed, not only numerically, but in the quality of the work, and in such a short space of time. The

Art Instructors Hold Exhibition

By EMILY GENAUER.

The American Artists School opens its season with an exhibition of work by members of its faculty, numbering among them such wellknown figures as Moses Soyer, Philip Evergood, Francis Criss, Maurice Glickman, Abraham Harriton, Walter Quirt, Philip Reisman, Harry Glassgold and Louis Schanker.

Criss is so well collected that no original canvases by him were available for the exhibition, so photographs of works in the Whitney, Brooklyn and other museums, as well as in distinguished private collections, are shown instead. Glickman, because the majority of his sculptured figures are so large, must also be seen in photographic reproduction. But Walter Quirt is there in originals, and these are enough to make any show. Quirt is the daring fellow who attempted to harness that medium of the archaesthetes, surrealism, to something as vivid and real as the class struggle. And succeeded in turning out canvases that, however potent they may be in hastening the revolution, are excellent works of art.

There is also a first rate canvas by the younger Soyer, a portrait of a dignified, meditating girl in a Louis Schanker, yellow blouse. whose rich abstractions we have not seen in some time, is also commend-ably represented. Schanker seems to have evolved for himself a definite and individual personality and point of view. And that, in a school as circumscribed as abstraction, is no mean achievement. We also liked the finely textured prints by Eugene Morley and the clean sweep of Harriton's "Tri-Boro Bridge."

YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1938.

Numerous Artists Show

Sparks fly at the exhibition of the merican Abstract Artists, at the fine Art Gallery. But they are indled by visitors' violent reactions o these painted combinations of lines, triangles, cubes and the like, organized into what might be called plastic representations of geometrical formulae, rather than by the intrinsic attributes of the paintings themselves. Because there's not a stray emotion in a carload of them.

None of the works, by their very ature, even attempt to convey the ssence of personal, or human, emo-ions. Nor do they need to, to resain their status as legitimate works camera caught them in mid-air. of art. What is more important, few of them provoke (or they didn't, that is, to this observer) any emotional, or sensuous, reaction to their purely plastic harmonies, the reshness and charm characteristic rhythms of their masses, colors, or lines. And Werner Drewes retains his status as one of few

work by members of the group, although if you didn't know that, you might easily imagine, after a cursory glance about the walls, that they were tossed off in weak moments by Picasso, Miro, Klee, Kandinsky and others of the European school of abstractionists.

Work Too Derivative.

That seems to be the trouble with American exponents of the prin-ciples of non-objective art. Their work is too palpably derivative and, as imitation, lacks the fire of the original artists who were their inspiration.

Rosalind Bengelsdorf's abstraction is like a late Picasso, with none of the monumental, frenzied force of the Picasso and only its exterior, weakened form. Ilya Bolotawsky's things are so close to Miro the Cataionian could very easily sue the American for plagiarism and win his suit, though Bolotowsky's effort has none of the humor or the extraordinary liveness of Miro's work. Susie Frelinghuysen's "papier colle" paintings would be charming if their source, Picasso, didn't keep getting between picture and spectator.

Some Original Talent.

There are some original talents to be seen in this show, though they are not in every case effective. Paul Kelpe, for instance, appears to be charting his own way, preceding from the point where Gleizes left off. But his separated forms, like segments of pipes and blocks, beautifully drawn and sensitively colored, lack movement. It is as though a juggler were tossing them and a

Janet Young, working in colored marbles, secures interesting, original and pleasing results.

Louis Schanker's pictures have the Two large rooms are filled with American abstractionists whose

> works really have a vigorous, creative individuality.

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS

cordially invites

to attend the opening of its

Third Annual Exhibition

to be held at the

RIVERSIDE MUSEUM

310 Riverside Drive at 103rd Street, New York City Monday, March 6th, 1939, at 8 P.M.

MARCH

Abstract Artists Open Annual Exhibition Today

Group's Largest Show Held in

the cubist and post-cubist trend in

watercolors, pastels and collages, designs composed of colored paper and other materials pasted and superimposed upon one another. Another display is of wood block prints, etchings and lithographs in abstract designs, and another of sculpture in wood and metal. Among the more unusual exhibits are abstractions waren wheelock, R. D. Turnbull, Albert Swinden, 'Pau Kelpe and Ibram Lassaw.'

A souvenir book on "American Abstract Art." with illustrations of the work of all members, biographical notes and credo, is available at the exhibition. The show is open from 1 to 5 p. m. daily through unusual exhibits are abstractions

constructed in relief and painted, including a shadow-box creation with a design of metal and wire

construction.

Fifty-three artists are represented by from one to ten exhibits each in The American Abstract Artists, a group devoted to advanced forms of non-representational painting, sculpture and graphic art, opened their third annual exhibition last night at the Riverside Museum, 310 Riverside Drive. The show, which opens to the public today, is the largest in the annual are John Ferren, of Paris; Durnel Grant, of Springfield, Ohio, and T. Rice Pereira and A. D. About 250 exhibits—all typical of F. Reinhardt of The first time of the cubist and post artistics.

Others prominent are Susie Frepainting—have been assembled, filling seven galleries and two corridors.

In addition to paintings which occupy most of the galleries, two rooms at the display are devoted to watercolors, pastels and collages, designs composed of colored paper and Keina and Thram Largary.

EXHIBITION

American Abstract Artists

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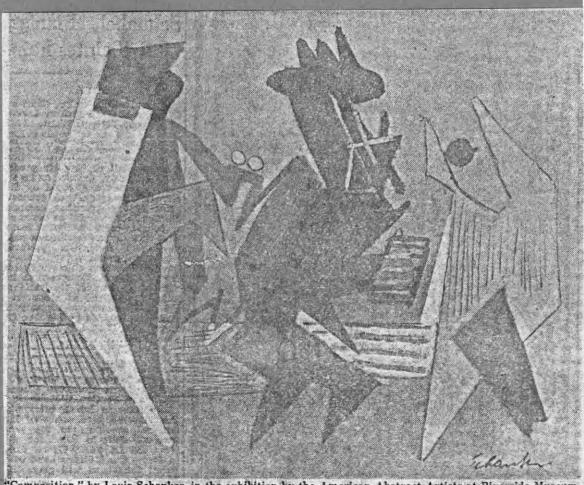
RIVERSIDE MUSEUM, NEW YORK

March 7-26, 1939

The numbers on each exhibit correspond to the numbers below

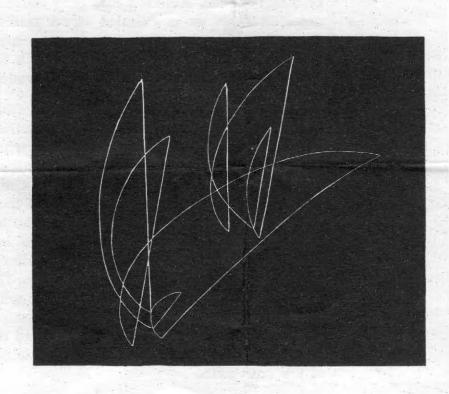
- 1. Joseph Albers
- 2. Rosalind Bengelsdorf
- 3. Ilya Bolotowsky
- 4. Harry Bowden
- 5. Byron Browne
- 6. Jeanne Carles
- 7. Giorgio Cavallon
- 8. A. N. Christie
- 9. Anna Cohen
- 10. Burgoyne Diller
- 11. Werner Drewes
- 12. Herzl Emanuel
- 13. John Ferren
- 14. Susie Frelinghuysen
- 15. A. E. Gallatin
- 16. Fritz Glarner
 - 17. Durnel Grant
- 18. Balcomb Greene
- 19. Gertrude Greene
- 20. Hananiah Harari
- 21. Carl R. Holty
- 22. Harry Holtzman
- 23. Dorothy Joralemon
- 24. Ray Kaiser
- 25. Gerome Kamrowski
- 26. Frederick Kann

- 27. Paul Kelpe
- 28. Leo Lances
- 29. Ibram Lassaw
- 30. Agnes Lyall
- 31. Alice Mason
- 32. George McNeil
- 33. George L. K. Morris
- 34. I. Rice Pereira
- 35. Margaret Peterson
- 36. A. D. F. Reinhardt
- 37. Ralph M. Rosenborg
- 38. Louis Schanker
- 39. Charles G. Shaw
- 40. Esphyr Slobodkina
- 41. David Smith
- 42. Florence Swift
- 43. Albert Swinden
- 44. R. D. Turnbull
- 45. Vaclav Vytlacil
- 46. Rudolph Weisenborn
- 47. Warren Wheelock
- 48. Frederick Whiteman
- 49. Harry I. Wildenberg
- 50. Robert J. Wolff
- 51. Beckford Young
- 52. Janet Young
- 53. Wilfrid Zogbaum



"Composition," by Louis Schanker, in the exhibition by the American Abstract Artists at Riverside Museum.

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS



NATIONAL EXHIBITION

1940

By the fact of their active existence and production, the American Abstract Artists express the authenticity and autonomy of the modern movement in the United States. The word abstract is incorporated in their title as a provisional gesture, so that they can be identified as a particular group in their effort to clarify growing and actively significant concepts of art.

The members of this group recognize the need for individuals to experiment and deviate at times from what may seem established directions. By means of this organization, individuals working and studying against the odds of isolation can now be articulate and related to others working in similar directions. And by it, too, has been achieved a growing response to abstract art in America.

NTIL comparatively recently it has not been easy to see abstract paintings in America; and to see abstract paintings by American artists was a practical impossibility for the general public. For some time there have been indications that new art-forms were in the course of evolution, as befitted a civilization with a character of its own. The pioneers in the new expression were Europeans, for Europe has long been the center of world-culture. America has only recently asserted itself as a cultural force, and in America to-day there are numerous painters and sculptors who are delving beneath the long-eroded traditions of surface illustration.

There are still large sections of the public that have never seen an abstract painting; many people do not know what it is when they see one. This is quite natural; for generations people have been taught from child-hood that works of art were no more than glimpses into nature. Custom and prejudice make it doubly hard to recover the lost properties that made for esthetic sublimity during the great epochs of art-history. The abstract artists have travelled the whole way, they have gone to those furthest beginnings of structure and design which have held the emotions of the artist since the first drawings of the cave-man.

Abstract paintings are a logical beginning. They are not puzzles; they are not difficult to understand; they need only to be looked at, as one might look at a tree or a stone itself, and not as the representation of one. They stand with the independence of architectural shapes, and through very simple means a whole new world is opened.

1	JOSEF ALBERS Reverse Frames	20	ELEANOR deLAITTRE Reflections Floating Divide
2	ILYA BOLOTOWSKY Abstraction	21	IBRAM LASSAW Construction with Light
3	HARRY BOWDEN Still Life	22	AGNES EARL LYALL Abstraction
4	BYRON BROWNE Head	23	GEORGE McNEIL Composition in Black
5	GIORGIO CAVALLON Composition	24	Composition ALICE MASON
6	A. N. CHRISTIE Abstraction	W 194	Oil Oil
7	WERNER DREWES Composition Advancing	25	GEORGE L. K. MORRIS Composition Composition 1938
8	JOHN FERREN Abstraction	26	I. RICE PEREIRA Ascending Scale
9	SUSIE FRELINGHUYSEN	27	A. D. REINHARDT Abstraction
20	Abstraction Carmen	28	RALPH M. ROSENBORG
10	A. E. GALLATIN Composition	29	LOUIS SCHANKER
11	FRITZ GLARNER Composition	30	Composition CHARLES G. SHAW
12	BALCOMB GREENE Angular		In Flight Abstraction
	Primary Construction	31	ESPHYR SLOBODKINA Abstraction
13	GERTRUDE GREENE Construction	32	Abstraction FLORENCE SWIFT
14	HANANIAH HARARI		Abstraction
15	Railroad Signals	33	ALBERT SWINDEN Study in Apposition
15	CARL R. HOLTY Composition Composition	34	R. D. TURNBULL Oil 1938
16	HARRY HOLTZMAN Abstraction	35	VACLAV VYTLACIL Still Life
17	RAY KAISER Composition	36	WARREN WHEELOCK Carving
18	FREDERICK P. KANN Mobile	37	HARRY I. WILDENBERG Space Division
19	PAUL KELPE Composition	38	ROBERT J. WOLFF Abstractions

JUNE 5-16

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS

PAINTINGS:

- 1 JOSEF ALBERS
- 2 ROSALIND BENGELSDORF
- 3 ILYA BOLOTOWSKY
- 4 BYRON BROWNE
- 5 GEORGE CAVALLON
- 6 A. N. CHRISTIE
- 7 ANNA COHEN
- 8 BURGOYNE DILLER
- 9 WERNER DREWES
- 10 SUSIE FRELINGHUYSEN
- 11 A. E. GALLATIN
- 12 SIDNEY GEIST
- 13 FRITZ GLARNER
- 14 BALCOMB GREENE
- 15 GERTRUDE GREENE
- 16 HANANIAH HARARI
- 17 HARRY HOLTZMAN
- 18 CARL HOLTY
- 19 DOROTHY JORALEMON
- 20 RAY KAISER
- 21 FREDERICK P. KANN
- 22 PAUL KELPE
- 23 LEONORE KRASSNER
- 24 ELEANOR DE LAITTRE
- 25 IBRAM LASSAW
- 26 HOWARD LESTER
- 27 AGNES LYALL
- 27 AGNES LYALL
- 28 ALICE MASON
- 29 GEORGE MONEIL

- 30 L. MOHOLY-NAGY
- 31 GEORGE L. K. MORRIS
- 32 I. RICE PEREIRA
- 33 MARGARET PETERSON
- 34 A. D. F. REINHARDT
- 35 RALPH M. ROSENBORG
- 36 LOUIS SCHANKER
- 37 CHARLES G. SHAW
- 38 ESPHYR SLOBODKINA
- 39 FLORENCE SWIFT
- 40 ALBERT SWINDEN 41 R. D. TURNBULL
- 42 VACLAV VYTLACIL
- 43 WARREN WHEELOCK
- 44 FREDERICK WHITEMAN
- 45 HARRY WILDENBERG
- 46 ROBERT JAY WOLFF

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- 51 WALTER GROPIUS
- 52 FERDINAND KRAMER
- 53 RICHARD J. NEUTRA

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