Corcoran Gallery of Art to Host Largest Exhibition of Modernist Art and Design in U.S.

Modernism: Designing a New World 1914–1939 to Emphasize American Works

Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC
March 17–July 29, 2007
For information call 202.639.1700 or visit www.corcoran.org

This Spring the Corcoran Gallery of Art is hosting the critically acclaimed exhibition Modernism: Designing a New World 1914–1939. Originally organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London, it is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition on Modernism to be staged in the United States to date. The Corcoran will be the show’s only American venue, following its installation at the V&A and MARTa Herford in Germany.

“This show demonstrates how Modernist art, design and architecture still affect nearly every aspect of our lives. It takes a comprehensive look at Modernism, featuring everything from teacups to buildings with no gaps in between,” said the Corcoran’s new director and president Paul Greenhalgh.

This groundbreaking and vast exhibition explores the foundation and meaning of Modernist art and design, as well as its evolution into a mass movement that continues to influence the way we live. As it explores key Modernist movements—such as Bauhaus, De Stijl, Constructivism, and Purism—the exhibition reveals how the distinctive style developed and what principles defined it. The show also investigates Modernism’s key themes, including Utopia; the role of the factory and mass production; the spiritual aspect of modern life; fascination with the healthy body and organic forms found in nature; and national identity.

Modernism contains more than 390 works and 50 film clips and encompasses a broad range of media, including industrial and graphic design, architecture, painting, film, and photography. While its works will represent 17 countries, the Washington exhibition will have a distinct American flavor, featuring American works not in the V&A’s exhibition. In fact, the Corcoran is a key lender to this exhibition, with 15 works coming from its permanent collection.