

THE  
*Art Digest*

May 15, 1944  
~p. 11~

War-Time Canvases by Modern Parisians



RECENT PAINTINGS FROM PARIS have been brought to New York by Pierre Matisse, recently returned from the City of Light, and are now on view at his 57th Street Gallery. Represented are Pierre Bonnard, Jean Dubuffet, Andre Marchand, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault.

Picasso is represented by a single canvas titled *Nature Morte a la Bougie*. Despite the interesting compositional arrangements of the work's heavy masses, its harsh color is disturbing. The greens, for example, tend to destroy the canvas' unity. Surely not the artist's happiest effort to be included in this exciting show. Pierre Bonnard is seen with a sensitive *L'escalier des Mimosas* that fairly shimmers with light. Three top works from the brush of Rouault are included. Smouldering color marks his *Oasis ou Mirage*.

The three canvases by Henri Matisse confirm the validity of the painter's position as prime plastic decorator. *Michaella* establishes its directions through deft oppositions of line and incorporates an integrated color harmony. Jean Dubuffet would seem to inherit much from Paul Klee, judging from *Le President*. Here a palette knife technique has been combined with brushed areas to achieve textural variety. One of the high spots in this group comes from the brush of Andre Marchand. It is titled *L'Arlesienne* and along with its fine sense of form-placement add electric blues and balanced greens and purples. It is a talent-revealing work as are the other two examples by the same artist. Exhibition through May.—BEN WOLF.