

# About Art and Artists

## First Museum Show of the Season Offers Sculpture and Painting of Roszak

By HOWARD DEVREE

THE first local museum attraction of the new season opens to the public today—a retrospective exhibition of work by Theodore Roszak at the Whitney Museum.

Best known as a sculptor pioneering in welded metal forms, Roszak is represented in this show not only by his sculpture of the last decade but also by paintings from 1929 to 1947, by constructions in metals, wood and plastic during the late Thirties and by large and masterly ink or wash drawings of the last ten years.

The paintings and constructions reveal Roszak's awakening to the modern movement, his assimilation of various ideas and idioms and from the first his restless experimentation in search of a technique and an approach which would permit statements of personal vision. While abstract elements are to be found in the paintings, it is evident that the constructions, with their severity of geometric and mechanistic forms, led him further afield from the representational and into concepts of plastic statement which had their fruition in the later sculpture.

The sculpture itself is neither purely abstract nor yet repre-

sentational, but rather, in most cases, an interpretation. Bird forms, the sense of flight, upward-spiring, suggestive shapes, plant growth and star forms occur in this work in greater or less recognizable degree; and in some of the drawings fantasy is given even wider scope with overtones surely drawn from pondering on man's destiny and the new vision of the cosmos.

Most of the twenty-five pieces of sculpture in the show have been shown from time to time at the Pierre Matisse Gallery or in group exhibitions; but, thus seen together, they add up to a new and impressive total effect. H. H. Arnason of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, who has written the explanatory text in the well-illustrated catalogue, asserts that Roszak is making one of the major original contributions to the sculpture of our time, and the show assuredly bears out his statement.

Organized by the Walker Art Center in collaboration with the Whitney, the exhibition, after it closes at the Whitney on Nov. 11, will be seen at the Center, the Los Angeles County Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Art and the Seattle Art Museum.

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