

**REGENT  
SCULPTURE  
USA**

# RECENT SCULPTURE U.S.A.

SPONSORED BY THE JUNIOR COUNCIL OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

*The Museum of Modern Art*                      *May 13, 1959—August 16, 1959*

*The Denver Art Museum*                      *October 12, 1959—November 22, 1959*

*Los Angeles County Museum*                      *February 22, 1960—April 3, 1960*

*City Art Museum of St. Louis*                      *May 3, 1960—June 12, 1960*

*Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*                      *September 14, 1960—October 16, 1960*

## INTRODUCTION

*The Junior Council of the Museum of Modern Art is now in its tenth year. The Council is composed of a group of men and women vitally interested in the arts of today, and devoted to the aims and purposes of the Museum of Modern Art. The Council pursues a comprehensive year round program.*

*Since its inception the Council's projects have included three major exhibitions, the operation of the Art Lending Service, the publication of a yearly engagement calendar and special events such as "The Related Arts of Today," "The Living Arts of India" and this year's lecture series "Dimensions 1959," all designed to reinforce and supplement the Museum's regular program.*

RECENT SCULPTURE—U.S.A. is the third in the series of exhibitions organized by the Council and devoted to contemporary art in America. It was preceded by YOUNG AMERICAN PRINTMAKERS and RECENT DRAWINGS—U.S.A., both directed by William S. Lieberman, staff advisor to the Junior Council. The Council is grateful to James Thrall Soby and Dorothy C. Miller who spent many hours selecting the sculptures and to René d'Harnoncourt who has installed them.

*To the many other members of the staff who assisted in this project as well as to those whose contributions made the exhibition possible the Council wishes to express its gratitude. The Junior Council also would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Donald B. Straus, now Honorary Chairman, for her leadership as Chairman during the past five years.*

WALTER BAREISS  
Chairman, Junior Council

*There are a number of startling developments in art since the Second World War. I think if asked to name one of the most unexpected—and I hope enduring—I would cite the extraordinary outburst of talent among British and American sculptors. For centuries we in the English speaking countries have thought that sculpture was a Continental or Oriental achievement, and our dreary monuments, relieved mostly by the fine, defiant innocence of our folk art, have led us often to confuse sculpture with statuary, which is quite a different matter. In brief, sculpture has seemed to us an atavistic miracle, depending for authority on uninhibited vitality and on visual imponderables which our literary traditions could not provide.*

*All that has changed now. I think no fair-minded person can look at the present show, wide in range of styles and materials, and not realize that a spark has ignited our younger sculptors, as it had ignited some of the senior prophets, both native and foreign-born, who have joined in the exhibition generously and of their own accord. It makes little difference where the spark has come from, the history of art being in good part an account of unforeseeable, creative arson, whose flames illumine rather than destroy. But we can take great pride in what the best of our sculptors are producing, whether they carve or cast their works, weld them, or convert into estimable jewels the wry tiaras of the junkyard. More and more of us are learning to see in the round, and it has taken us a very long time. The artists have taught us, and our debt to them is marvelous and deep, as it has been always.*

JAMES THRALL SOBY

JACOB: *Totem*. 1957. Bronze, 51¼" high.

KAISH: *The Blessing*. 1957. Bronze, 29" high.

