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Monet to Moore: The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation

Richard R. Brettell

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Richard R. Brettell : Monet to Moore: The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monet to Moore: The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Lewis V. Woodson Jr. beware not a hard back book as described, rather a thick paper cover exhibition catalogue. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, Complete Review of a Magnificent Exhibit By A Customer This book shows in beautiful color each piece in the Sara Lee Millennium Gift. I saw the exhibit today and it is fantastic. This exhibit is the last time the pieces will be together before being dispersed to various museums in the US and abroad. This book is a wonderful way to gain insight into the collection process, the man behind it, and the individual pieces. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in corporate collections--Sara Lee Corporation is/was a significant pioneer in this area.

One of the most significant and least studied forms of postwar art collecting in the United States has been the corporate collection. This beautiful book documents one of the most important and widely exhibited of these holdings: the collection of Sara Lee Corporation, fifty-two works selected from the personal collection of Sara Lee's founder, Nathan

Cummings. With major masterpieces ranging from an 1872 painting by Claude Monet to a 1964 bronze by Henry Moore, the Sara Lee Collection was assembled in 1980, five years before Cummings's death. Since then it has been exhibited in or made loans to many museums throughout the world. In 1998, the corporation announced an unprecedented gift of the entire collection to a group of forty art museums, twenty-five in the United States and fifteen in international cities in which Sara Lee Corporation has a major presence. This Millennium Gift is the largest single gift to the arts in American history and the first to include institutions outside the United States. This book discusses the Nathan Cummings Collection, the Sara Lee Collection, and the Millennium Gift. It also includes an essay on each of the fifty-two works that places the work in the context of the artist's oeuvre, proposes new interpretations, and discusses the position of the art in the collections of the recipient museums throughout the world. Lavishly illustrated, the book also provides more than 200 comparative photographs.

From *Library Journal* Even libraries that have Brettell's 1986 catalog *An Impressionist Legacy: The Collection of Sara Lee Corporation* will want to acquire this improved and timely volume. Though both titles showcase the art collected by the late Nathan Cummings, founder of the Sara Lee Corporation, *Monet to Moore* is a sort of memorial; after the current touring exhibition, the corporation is donating the 52 items to 40 selected museums around the world. Here, large-color photographs accompany enormously insightful new essays. Throughout, the collection's curator, Brettell, and Lee, an independent art historian, clearly explain the background and importance of each piece, compare related examples, and analyze the scholarly literature. They also note why each work is appropriate for its new home; for example, Manz's statue of a cardinal will go to the Vatican, where the artist found inspiration. Although the title reflects the chronological span (1872-1964), the book is organized alphabetically by artist, from Arp to Vuillard. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Anne Marie Lane, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Richard R. Brettell, curator of the Sara Lee Collection since its inception, is a professor in the interdisciplinary program in arts and humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas. Having served as a museum professional in Chicago and Dallas, he is the author of many other books, including the prize-winning *Pissarro and Pontoise: The Painter in a Landscape*, published by Yale University Press. Natalie H. Lee is an independent art historian based in Dallas.