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SENDER

Ernest Mancoba

RECIPIENT

FACTS

Document type:

Letter

Date explanation:

letter undated, no envelope, but the mentioned exhibition is most likely "Cobra : Copenhagen, Bruxelles, Amsterdam : Art experimental 1948-1951" which ran from 14 June to 14 September 1997 at Musée cantonal des beaux-arts Lausanne, then travelled to Hypo-Kulturstiftung (Munich, Germany) Kunsthalle and Kunst Haus Wien

It is presumed the letter would be to the organisers of the exhibition

Sender's location:

Paris

DOCUMENT CONTENT

It is presumed that Ernest Mancoba is writing to the organisers of the "Cobra : Copenhagen, Bruxelles, Amsterdam : Art experimental 1948-1951" which ran from 14 June to 14 September 1997 at Musée Cantonal des Eaux-Arts Lausanne, then travelled to Hypo-Kulturstiftung (Munich, Germany) Kunsthalle and Kunst Haus Wien

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

Dear Sir,

It is with great interest and pleasure that we receive your letter informing us that an exhibition on COBRA is planned in Lausanne and München in the near future.

Our family has always participated in or supported any effort towards a better appreciation, by a wider public of this fundamental artistic movement that took place in Europe after the Second War, at a time when our contemporaries were painfully pulling themselves out of what has been called by some the nadir of Human civilization, and by others the midnight in our century.

The young artists who formed COBRA had the vision and hope of a plastic language which would free the spiritual and material expression which we call Art, from the canons of academic formalism and a superficial ~~view~~ ^{the} of esthetic decency, following thereby in the footsteps of DADA and Surrealism, but also to further liberate the domain of visual poetry from the sapless tyranny of the pure intellect which that same movement which, before the war, had emancipated us from the emptiness of false hellenism and a bigotted conception of a so-called and self-satisfied Reason, threatened to become when nearing its exhaustion.

For a few years, this young and vigorous movement helped us to stand on our feet again, above and beyond the chaos and waste of bankrupt ideologies, and to rediscover the human roots without which our species is in danger of utterly losing its way in the purely artificial and the plainly systematic, towards which our mechanic environment, together with a misconception of what is called the modern, easily can lead, nay, has already lead in a large measure.

Today the importance of this short-lived, but essential movement, in the adventure of human expression is recognized. It is an important step.

Naturally our family will always do anything it can, to help the public to, come in contact with the works of Sonja Ferlov; and is ready to lend the ~~works which are needed and required~~ as far as they are available. On the other hand, we would be very grateful if it would be possible for you to give us more information about the projected exhibition, its general conception and the artists who will be shown.

From your letter, we understand that it only will concern artists belonging to the 3 nations which you mention. Should we be mistaken please do inform us. In case our interpretation is correct, having for our part the highest respect for the national fact in this world, and for its positive contribution in History, we would consider this to be entirely justified, as long as it is clear that such a presentation is from a particular point of view, which expressly takes into account the national origin of the artists but that COBRA's vision in its integrity has always been fundamentally universal.

Knowing that the art historians and museum authorities you mention in your letter, have a deep consciousness of Cobra's significance our family is fully confident that the works and efforts of the group will have the best possible presentation.

Whishing you, Sir, the highest success in this capital initiative, we send you, Wonga and I, our most

Respectful Greetings