

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

At Villa Favorita, overlooking Lake Lugano, the home of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, the German industrialist, there is the first exhibition in the Western world of 40 art masterpieces from the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. They include work of Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso, Renoir, Monet, and even priceless works of Gauguin from his two Tahitian periods. On exhibit through 14 October.

■ Portugal's first museum of modern art has opened in Lisbon after 21 years of acquisitions, more than 3 years of construction and a lively controversy generated by conservationists. The Center of Modern Art, a gift from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, is a three-story structure with a vast single-room gallery consisting of interconnecting floors. It has 500 paintings, sculptures, and other works on display, with another 3,000 in reserve. From Portuguese modernists to David Hockney, the Center hopes to be more than a museum but wants to be a documentation and research center with an outdoor amphitheater and areas adapted for photography, animation, experimental filming, video and holography.

■ The shipment of the Madonna del Parto fresco of Piero della Francesca was vetoed by the Italian Culture Minister to be included in an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for three months.

■ 100 modern paintings from the world-famous Guggenheim Museum collections in New York will be exhibited in the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Shirogane Garden on 1 October through 25 December.

■ The next ARCO, the International Contemporary Art Fair of Madrid, will be held 17 through 22 February 1984. It will be held at the Crystal Palace in the Casa de Campo Fairground.

■ Arts International, a Washington-based nonprofit cultural organization, encourages international cultural exchanges, including answering questions. Peter Solmssen, a former Life magazine photographer, lawyer and senior Foreign Service officer who was the State Department's Advisor on the Arts for 8 years, is the director of this organization funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund two years ago. The NEA recently approved a grant of \$25,000 in support of Arts International's computerized data bank, which will organize information about major festivals, exhibitions, arts agreements and the like. They are located in the old stable and mews area of the historic Robert Low Bacon house, located a few blocks from the White House.

■ Conte Giuseppe Panza di Biumo, who has been collecting American contemporary artworks, mostly by Californians, especially in his 18th-century villa and carriage houses in Varese, has decided by 1990 to house the huge quality collection in two castles built by the King of Savoia on the outskirts of Turin. Provincial governments will pay for restoration of the castles which will run into \$30 million for one and \$6 million for the other, and annual maintenance of each site.

■ More than 15,000 years after Cromagnon man using crude materials daubed his heart and soul on the walls of the Las-

caux grotto, France has opened Lascaux II, an exact copy of the famous cave. A dozen artists helped re-create a prehistoric place in this concrete bunker built about 150 yards down the heavily wooded hill from the original site. The imitation grotto is a monument of recreation of nature. The copyists who did the cave paintings used materials similar to those in the original, and flocks of tourists have rushed to the Dordogne to see the not-for-real prime time cave.

■ The new director of the Prado, Alfonso Emilio Perez Sanchez, is determined to reverse 20 years of pollution, neglect and tangled administration and make the Prado Spain's "living" institution. He is supervising the final stages of the installation of the air-conditioning system, not expected to be completed before 1985, before which deterioration of paintings has been grave. He is also inventorying the damage of the paintings up to now and ascertaining the job of cleaning and restoration. He is also going to try to track down paintings that, since 1870, have been lent to public institutions.

■ The first Canadian/U.S. performing arts booking Conference, Eastern Canada/New England Contact Boston '83, will be held 23 - 25 September at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Contact Boston '83 will bring together over 100 artists managements, companies, and in individual artists as well as hundreds of performing arts presenters and sponsors, jointly sponsored by the NEA and the Canada Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Government of Quebec.

■ For the last four years, the 49-year-old Israeli-born artist Gyora Novak has been attempting to build a modern gate to Jerusalem, 25 stories high to mark the approach to the city. The cost, between \$30 and \$50 million, involves rerouting a section of the country's main highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and constructing a park in the town of Mevasseret Zion, the area where the gate would be built. Much like a golden arch, the gate has evoked a great deal of criticism on the part of the Israeli people. There are 60 days of public deposition this summer in which all the drawings, plans, maps and written information relating to the gate will be available for examination by the public. After this a hearing will be held, at which time if the opposition voiced is strong enough, the project can be rejected. It has been endorsed by very important architects and designers in the world.

■ A huge exhibition of Alexander Calder, including sculptures, paintings, drawings, jewelry, tapestries, stage designs, prints, objects of household use, and odd early work—more than 450 pieces—was seen through 25 September in Turin, organized by Calder's friend, the Italian art historian, Giovanni Carandente. A huge catalog documents the exhibition held at the Palazzo a Vela in Turin. The show is not to travel.

■ **Tabu Dada**, an exhibition of the work of Suzanne Duchamp (sister of Marcel) and her husband, Jean Crotti, has been seen in Paris and Berne. It is now at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston (through 16 October) and will be seen this winter at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

