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Duluth--- An exhibition of more than 150 three-dimensional sketches by world famous sculptor Jacques Lipchitz will open at a special reception at 8:00 p.m. Thursday (April 2) at UMD's Tweed Art Gallery.

The sketches, all of which have been cast into bronze, will be on display until April 29. They represent 50 years (1912-1962) of the genius of Lipchitz who has been called the greatest contemporary sculptor.

Co-sponsor of the Lipchitz exhibition at Tweed Gallery is First American National Bank of Duluth.

The exhibit was prepared by The Museum of Modern Art, New York City, with the aid of a grant from the CBS Foundation Inc.

Lipchitz currently is casting an eight-foot high bronze statue of Sieur Du Lhut, the French explorer for whom the city of Duluth was named. The statue will be mounted on a 13-foot high granite column near the entrance of Tweed Gallery.

Lipchitz was commissioned to do the work by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and the First American National Bank of Duluth, acting as trustee for the Albert L. Ordean Trust.

"The Lipchitz exhibition is one of the most important and exciting showings we have ever had at Tweed Gallery," Dr. Orasio Fumagalli, associate director, said today.

"Lipchitz unquestionably is one of the towering figures among 20th century sculptors. He and a handful of other artists---Brancusi, Picasso, Giacometti, Moore and Calder---have been the catalytic agents in bringing about the revolutionary metamorphosis of sculptural forms during the first half of our century." (more)

The sketches or clay models are used by sculptors to formulate ideas for larger sculptures. There often are several versions of an idea for ~~many~~ a single large work. "The sketches are the first splash, the prime of inspiration which keeps all the spontaneous warmth," according to Lipchitz.

Lipchitz became identified with cubism in Paris around 1910, along with his friends Picasso and Juan Gris. Like Picasso, Lipchitz did not remain constant to a single group or movement and has experimented through the years with new techniques and new forms of artistic expression.

"Lipchitz has always been a pathfinder seeking to liberate sculpture from its traditional imprisonment," Dr. Funagalli said. "Throughout his artistic career, Lipchitz has continued to grow and find new images which were more suited for expressing modern man's ideas and his hopes and fears."

Born in Russian-owned Lithuania in 1891, Lipchitz went to Paris to study in 1909. He continued to work and live there until 1941 when the outbreak of World War II forced him to flee to the United States. He has remained here and now is living and working in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The exhibition of sketches is open to the public at no charge. Tweed Gallery is open from 8 a.m. to noon, 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 2-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Possible I-Ds and cuts for Lipchitz pictures:

- 1) Jacques Lipchitz is a master of images and visual expression. The classical sculptural quality in Head of Mademoiselle S. done in 1911 is quite evident.
- 2) The measured ~~xyctis~~ rhythm and dream like calm of Woman and Gargelles (1912) is easily appreciated.
- 3) In a sense, Seated Guitar Player (1918) reflects the fragmented, stern world of post World War I. In this work, Lipchitz was involved with the abstract discipline of cubism.
- 4) It is difficult to find a more masterful portrait in the history of art than Lipchitz's Gertrude Stein (1920).
- 5) The force and character revealed in the portrait of his wife Berthe Lipchitz (1922) establishes him as an outstanding portrait sculptor.
- 6) Lipchitz's Prometheus Strangling the Vulture II (1944-53) forcefully captures the nervous energy and tension central to the idea of the Greek myth about Prometheus who symbolizes the forces of knowledge in their struggle against ignorance and injustice and evil.

(outlines written by Dr. Fumagalli)