

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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FOR WEDNESDAY RELEASE

The Museum Garden restaurant is open for the summer. Luncheon (85 cents) is served from 12 to 2:30 p.m. daily except Sundays. Tea (50 cents) is served daily from 4 to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from 2:30 p.m.

## NEW TEACHING EXHIBITS TO REACH 175,000 NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM

Exhibits newly designed for practical teaching in New York City's public high schools will be on view from June 8 to 26 in the Young People's Gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE WORKING MODELS, AND TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WILL BE IN THE GALLERIES FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRESS, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, FROM 3:30 TO 5 P.M.

This joint operation by the high schools and the Museum of a school program for art in daily life has proved very stimulating since its inception 9 years ago.

Particularly effective are the three-dimensional Demonstration Teaching Models created by Miss Virginia Murphy, Director of Art in the New York Public High Schools, and produced by the Museum's Educational Program. These are cabinets, on wheels for easy moving from school to school, with drawers and open panel doors containing materials for visual demonstration use by the students. For example, the new Costume Design cabinet, produced in co-operation with the designer Irene Schawinsky, shows in movable panels various physical types - blond, brunette, fat, slim - on which may be superimposed other sliding panels of various kinds of clothes, textures, patterns to show their effect on the appearance of the figure. The students can learn the importance of clothing that enhances their personality and figure without the self-consciousness which often arises from acting as models before their classmates. The Color Booth and Stage Design Model, another new cabinet, was designed in co-operation with Dr. George Amberg, Theatre Arts Consultant to the Museum of Modern Art and lecturer in the Arts Division of General Education at N.Y.U. Here students may set up in miniature on a turntable stage various materials and textured surfaces

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of different colors and play on them mixed colored lights to observe the effects. This has an immediate practical value to students in producing their own theatrical performances and in lighting their school displays and exhibits, and at the same time they learn basic principles of light and color.

Other new exhibits for the schools are selected from 4 exhibitions assembled by the Museum's Educational Program for circulation in art classes. These are entitled Modern Architecture of the Small House and City Apartment, Design for the Theatre, Poster Design Today and Contrasts in Painting.

A few examples of older materials that already have been circulated with great success in the schools will be shown. Among these is a Lending Library of Color Reproductions, inaugurated at the suggestion of Miss Murphy. It consists of 25 works by modern artists in reproduction. Students may borrow these as they do library books, thus taking the art of our time into their homes where appreciation is acquired in a natural and familiar environment.

The whole exhibition is a small cross-section of the art program in the New York public high schools today. Because of financial limitations, only 40 of the 54 academic high schools can participate each year. The exhibits are shown in school hallways or unlocked rooms where they enable approximately 175,000 students every year to exercise selective judgment in practical, everyday situations. It is notable that in the 9 years of the program no exhibition object has ever been stolen, nor has anything been mischievously damaged.

The program is offered in the schools because of the vision and understanding of Dr. Frederic Ernst, Associate Superintendent in charge of High Schools, whose great desire is to extend the student's horizon. Regarding the Museum's participation in the program, Miss Murphy states: "Mr. Victor D'Amico, Director of the Museum's Educational Program, has had long art education experience which leads him to realize the needs of the schools. His resourcefulness in designing and carrying out ideas has meant a great deal in creating the program."

Dr. Ernst, Miss Murphy, Mr. D'Amico and Dr. Amberg will be glad to discuss the program with newspaper and magazine critics at the Museum on Tuesday afternoon, June 7.