

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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PRESS PREVIEW: MONDAY  
Dec. 12 - at 11a.m. & 2p.m.  
Children from the Museum  
classes will be in the  
Carnival at these hours.

No. 105

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Dec. 13, 1955

## CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CARNIVAL RESUMED AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Children's Holiday Carnival is on again at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. For the first time since 1953 children between the ages of four and eight can use the color players, trim a miniature wire Christmas tree, make a string design, "paint" with colored light a spaceman flying through clouds of angel hair, make designs on a magnetic board, assemble jig saw puzzles and make their own paintings, "feeling pictures," or collages, and mobiles in a specially equipped gallery workshop. This year's Carnival runs from December 13 through January 15.

The Carnival, organized since 1942 by Victor D'Amico, Director of the Museum's Department of Education, has been so successful that it has been copied by Museums in many parts of the country and several large toys, including the color players, magnetic board and string tension booth, have been borrowed by other institutions.

Reservations for the Carnival must be made in advance, by telephone only, (Circle 5-8900) for the sessions which begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. every day except Sundays when only afternoon sessions are held. Admission is 20 cents for the morning sessions. For the afternoon sessions, adults bringing children must pay the usual Museum admission of 60 cents and, in addition to the fee of 20 cents for the child, a materials fee of 25 cents is charged. The Carnival will be closed Christmas weekend (December 24 through 26) and New Year's weekend (Dec. 31 through January 2).

The gallery of toys with which the children can play and the workshop gallery where they make their own pictures and mobiles are set up on the first floor of the Museum. A plastic clown, a fish, a bird and a wind machine, designed by Toni Hughes, hang from the ceiling, casting colored shadows on the walls. Two popular sculptures, by Ruth Vollmar, a furry cat that arches his back when stroked and a dancing metal rooster, are placed on the floor so that children can touch them. The easels and low stools in the workshop are painted yellow and blue and red and the walls there hung with paintings by well-known modern artists. Parents are not admitted to this carnival world of color, light, moving shapes and music, but may stand outside and watch.

The specially designed playthings in the gallery of toys and the tools and materials in the workshop have all been selected to introduce young children to an enjoyment of texture, pattern and color on a level they can understand and in a way which involves their own active participation. The Carnival sessions are supervised by trained teachers.

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GALLERY OF TOYSSpace Man Flying Among the Planets

A two-foot tall space man, made of plastic and metal, rotates when the child pushes a button. Over the space man's head are three planets and around him are clouds of angel hair. By pushing more buttons, the child can change the color of the lights shining on the space man and create twilight, dawn or sunset for his flight. This is a new toy designed by Toni Hughes to give children an opportunity to "paint with light" and see the different effects of yellow, red or green lights on the same moving object.

Color Players

Two of these popular toys that also involve "painting with light" are in the Carnival this year. To operate the color player the child sits before a large box containing two tree-like structures on which he hangs abstract shapes, animal forms, birds and symbols of Christmas. After lowering a translucent glass window in front of the box the child then changes the colors that shine on his trees by punching four different keys with his hands. By pushing foot pedals his trees revolve, thus adding motion to the color pattern. One color player is fitted with cool colors, one with warm. They were designed by Victor D'Amico.

Wire Christmas Tree

This small tree is made of thick wire and the child can easily bend the branches to make any shape he likes. In front of the tree are a selection of Christmas ornaments which he can then hang on the branches.

Elastic String Design

In this toy the child makes a three-dimensional construction out of six pieces of elastic string, each fixed at one end only in a large shadow box. The other end of each string is equipped with a small ring which he attaches to any one of a number of hooks in the walls and ceiling of the shadow box. After creating his design -- based on tension rather than gravity -- the child can then hang a variety of three-dimensional decorations on the strings.

Magnetic Board

The magnetic board gives children an opportunity to try many different arrangements of color and pattern by placing bright colored metal shapes, both abstract and representational, on the white surface of the magnetic board. This was designed by Leonard Nelson.

Furry Cat and Dancing Rooster

Children are encouraged to play with these two sculptures, designed by Ruth Vollmar. The furry cat arches his back when he is petted and the rooster, a metal spiral construction, dances when a lever is jiggled.

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Shelf of small toys

Along one gallery wall there is a shelf of small experimental toys. They include a building toy by A.F. Arnold and a group of jig saw puzzles made by using color reproductions of some of the paintings in the Museum Collection which especially appeal to young children, so that when the child finishes putting the picture together he has made a picture he enjoys seeing.

Clown, Fish, Bird, Wind Machine Mobiles

These large shapes, made of colored plastic, hang from the ceilings in the galleries. They were designed by Toni Hughes. In addition to their own amusing and colorful shapes, they have been lit so as to cast colored shadows on adjoining walls.

WORKSHOP GALLERY

This studio, or workshop gallery, is designed to give children an opportunity to try out for themselves the use of color, texture, pattern and movement seen in the toys. Easels have been set up around the walls, equipped with large brushes, large paper and poster paints, all suitable for children between the ages of four and eight.

In the center of the room is a large table on which a great variety of materials are arranged - - feathers, pieces of tin foil, scraps of velvet and silk. Here the child can make "feeling pictures," or collages, by pasting different kinds of material on paper to form a pattern or can make three dimensional constructions or mobiles.

On the walls of this section of the Carnival are hung modern paintings in many different styles, selected to give children an understanding of the great variety that exists in the art of our time. Included are three African sculptures and paintings by Louis Vivin, Darryl Austin, Fernand Leger, Carol Blanchard, Camille Bombois and Karl Priebe.

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Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art. Circle 5-8900.