

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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A former Navy barge now beached at the edge of Napeague Harbor, Long Island, is being converted into a new Summer Art Center under the sponsorship of the Institute of Modern Art, Victor D'Amico, President, announced today.

The 250 ton barge, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was towed from a Jersey City pier earlier this spring. Conversion into an art center with facilities for outdoor and indoor painting, meeting rooms and workshops is expected to be completed by July 2.

The barge, which is beached 50 feet from the water's edge, has a superstructure 25 by 86 feet and fore and aft decks 13 feet wide. Beaching took three weeks of planning and work. Two bulldozers and five winch-trucks aided in the last 100 feet of the trip.

The current remodeling will convert the barge into a large comfortable studio with skylights and windows. An office and lounge will be at the bow, laboratories and galley at the stern.

A new superstructure is being added to the existing roof, to provide a large cabin lounge with windows overlooking Long Island Sound on the port side and the Atlantic Ocean on the starboard. This will open on to a 16' by 50' deck to be used for painting, sunbathing and reading. A thousand foot road has been built from the highway to a new parking lot to accommodate students' cars. The ground will be landscaped with native pine, beach-grass and dusty miller.

"An art center made from a houseboat and set in the stimulating and everchanging environment of sea, sky and undulating dunes presents an ideal background for creative activities," Victor D'Amico said, describing the plans.

The new Summer Art Center is the outgrowth of art classes held for amateur adults during the last six summers.

Now under the sponsorship of the Institute of Modern Art, formed last year to extend the educational activities of the Museum of Modern Art, the new Summer Art Center will present an expanded program of activities including both day and evening classes for adults, special workshops for teachers and symposia on contemporary art for the general public. In addition special evenings will be planned for weekends in the fall and spring.

The Summer Art Center is the first major undertaking of the Institute of Modern Art. Other projects such as designing and producing creative art sets for children and adults are also under way. The Institute, a non-profit organization, now carries many of the educational activities of the Museum including the year-round program at the Museum in New York of art classes for children and adult amateurs.

Photographs and additional information is available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.