

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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GEORGE STODDARD SPEAKS AT CONFERENCE

Dr. George D. Stoddard, Chancellor and Executive Vice President of New York University will keynote the Saturday, May 4 General Session of the 21st Annual Conference of the National Committee on Art Education sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art.

Dr. Stoddard will deliver his speech, ART AS THE MEASURE OF MAN, at 10:00 a.m. in the Museum's Auditorium before the 500 members of the National Committee attending the Conference from the United States and Canada, April 30 through May 4.

Dr. Stoddard will refer to art as a necessary way for men to communicate with the present and with posterity. "Whatever else it may be," his speech will point out, "art is a form of communication...The artist cares about his inner life; he strives, as it were, to bring it forth. If he is successful -- needless to say, his chances are not very good -- the result is a poem, a novel, a play, a painting, a sculpture, a musical composition, a dance form, a design of some kind -- that arouses others and endures...."

In emphasizing art as a record and measure of its society, Dr. Stoddard will note that "The arts of man may well outlive the human race that produced them..." and that "Except through art no man is immortal....Every dogma, discovery, or political reform, in fact, every scientific advance gets accounted for in terms of its meaning, and its meaning inevitably finds expression in the literary, visual and performing arts. But that is not the whole range of art in civilization...it (art) certainly does accompany aspiration and pave the way to new advances. The heroes and saints of one age, through art, are able to inspire new generations."

Dr. Stoddard will consider the roles and relationship of art to science. "It should not be construed to mean that science and art are subservient in any vulgar way. Quite the reverse! Science stands on its own feet; it needs no help at all from art.Dressed up, the machine becomes a ship, a plane, an automobile, and now there is scope for the object to become not only an end-point in the application of scientific principles but a starting point for creative artistic ventures."

In considering the role of the artist, Dr. Stoddard will recommend that "....the individual artist need not do anything at all except to practice his art. He is not asked to save anything or anybody, including himself. He can enjoy himself. He can encourage others to enjoy themselves through the wit and humor of his creations."

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In conclusion, Dr. Stoddard will claim that "...stripped of all pretenses, art retains its power as the most original and delightful of all human endeavors that get beyond the acts and events of the day. It survives all its phases. It has no place to go except forward. Man himself can do no better."

The General Session of ART AS THE MEASURE OF MAN will be chaired by Hanna Toby Rose, Curator of Education at the Brooklyn Museum. Dr. Stoddard will speak as the Charles Francis Cook Memorial Lecturer. Mr. Cook was a founding member of the National Committee on Art Education and until his death in 1960 was one of the outstanding art educators in this country.

Additional information available from Marcia Rubinoff, Publicity Department, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.