

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M.

DELIVERY EXPECTED AT 10:30 P.M.

REDEDICATION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON
MAY 25, 1964

Friends:

I am happy to join Mr. Burden, Dr. Pauck, and the friends of the Museum here today in paying tribute to the artists and the artisans -- and the patrons of both -- who have made this a living museum.

These rooms, this lovely garden, and the art which inhabits them are larger than the square feet they measure. One must measure them in terms of creativity. They make it possible for every man, woman and child who walk through them to participate in the process of creativity.

They make it possible for you and me -- for the learned connoisseur and the school child -- to engage in a dialogue between doing and dreaming, fact and fancy, between the "must" of the average man and the "thrust" of the artist.

This great and growing museum makes it possible to leave our "dailyness" and see what we never saw before in the daily round -- for art is the window to man's soul. Without it, he would never be able to see beyond his immediate world; nor could the world see the man within.

We are so often pictured as a society entirely devoted to technological advance that it is good to have this abundant proof to the contrary. Not only can we walk taller because of the assembled canvases and sculptures, and prints, but also because of the traveling exhibits which help tell our creative story around the world. In our own country, these exhibits have gone to places where an original object of art has never been seen before.

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Culture is an international language. Its spokesmen may be in a one-room school in the Cumberland Mountains where, last week, I saw the hand puppets of Black Beauty and Daniel Boone, proudly displayed by the youngsters of Lick Branch School, or they may be works of excellence which we have sent abroad to our embassies to represent our country's best in the capitals of the world.

Ideas (and art, after all, is the evidence of the individual idea) have a universality that transcends language barriers.

In the rededication of this Museum, let us strive for more of us to speak that language.