

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

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## VICTOR D'AMICO

### DIRECTOR, THE INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART

Victor D'Amico joined the staff of The Museum of Modern Art in 1937 as Director of the Department of Education. In 1944, he directed the Museum's War Veterans Art Center, a project which in 1948 became the People's Art Center, under his direction since its formation. In 1960 Mr. D'Amico became President and Director of The Institute of Modern Art, a non-profit organization which has assumed responsibility for the Museum's school program.

In addition to the operation of the Art Center, where classes for adults and children are held throughout the year (summer school being held on a barge beached in Amagansett, Long Island), Mr. D'Amico's Department of Education services 50 New York City public schools with visual aids and circulates publications and studies on its teaching methods to educational groups all over the country. For 22 years it has served as headquarters for the nearly 800 members of the National Committee on Art Education of which Mr. D'Amico is a founder and Executive Director.

In 1942 Mr. D'Amico originated the Children's Holiday Carnival, a combination toy gallery and studio workshop. In 1957 it was presented in Milan and Barcelona as part of the International Samples Fairs and in 1958 it was a feature of the U. S. Pavilion of the Brussels World's Fair. In 1962 the Carnival was presented by Mrs. John F. Kennedy to the National Children's Museum in India on behalf of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art and the Asia Society. In October of the following year, Mr. D'Amico flew to India to open the Carnival and to train teachers in the methods of art education.

Mr. D'Amico produced a series of Museum-sponsored National Broadcasting Company television programs in 1952 and 1953 called "Through the Enchanted Gate," which were designed to develop the art interests of children and their parents.

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Mr. D'Amico has also taught art in a number of settlements, schools and colleges, including the Millbrook School for Boys, University of Wisconsin, Columbia University Teachers College and the Fieldston School, where he was head of the art department for 22 years. As well as teaching, Mr. D'Amico has published articles for periodicals and several books including Creative Teaching in Art, How To Make Modern Jewelry (with Charles J. Martin), Art For The Family (with Moreen Maser and Frances Wilson) and Experiments in Creative Art Teaching. He is currently working on yet another book on the teaching of art.

Born in New York City in 1904, Mr. D'Amico studied at Cooper Union and Pratt Institute and received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Columbia University Teachers College and on April 30, 1964, he received a Citation of Merit from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from the Philadelphia Museum College of Art on June 8, 1964.

He is married to the former Mable Birckhead, chairman of the Department of Art at Rye High School, and who joined her husband to help in the establishment of the Children's Carnival in New Delhi, India.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI5-8900.