

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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ART EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD, EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Art Education for Every Child, an exhibition demonstrating the importance of creative art teaching, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, May 6 - June 26. Adults will be encouraged to participate in the art experience of children by operating more complex versions of toys used since 1942 in the Museum's Children's Carnival of Modern Art and in Fairs in Milan, Barcelona and Brussels. Dozens of examples of children's work, film strips, movies and slide talks further illustrate the kind of teaching recommended by the National Committee on Art Education, sponsor of the exhibition with the Museum's Department of Education. Victor D'Amico is Chairman of the Committee and Director of the Department.

Installed in the Buckminster Fuller Dome in the Museum garden by Wilder Green, Assistant Director of Architecture and Design, the exhibition opens with a statement on the uniqueness of the individual. Paintings by four year old boys and seventeen year old girls are compared; photographs show the children at work. "Motivation" by experienced art teachers is illustrated in the next section - paintings resulting from guided free choice and from a theme, the city; and collages produced by exploring such materials as egg crates, sponge rubber, sea shells and netting. The child's need for continuity and development of increasingly subtle relationships is emphasized. Throughout, selected children's work in many media is on display: drawings; wire, ceramic, plaster and wood sculptures; stained glass windows; jewelry and puppets.

In the rest of the exhibition, the adult visitor is introduced to the pleasures of working with line, form and color, the fundamentals of art. By running his hand over a "tactile scale," he feels the sensation of juxtaposed textures - corrugated iron and cardboard, pebbles, copper screening and marbles. Using a "string design," he manipulates elastic string with golf tees on a peg board. He studies natural patterns by observing coral under a magnifying glass and algae under a microscope. Pressing the keys of a "color piano," he makes combinations of warm and cool color harmonies. With a "space model" he observes the effect of light on form, adjusting a turntable for motion.

A continuous slide display by Jean d'Autilia follows a creative project in woodworking from beginning to end. "Expanding horizons," a series of photographs,

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shows the importance of extending the child's awareness of his environment and of the arts, past and present.

Daily between 1 and 2 pm some of the following will be shown in a small auditorium installed in the Dome: Birdiness, by George Kaye, a filmed painting session of a class at the High School of Music and Art; an Omnibus kinescope of the Brussels Worlds Fair including a segment on the Children's Holiday Carnival; a recorded slide talk on the Carnival in Italy, Spain and Brussels; and kinescopes of Through the Enchanted Gate, a television series sponsored by the Museum in 1952 and 1953. During the rest of the afternoon, Understanding Children's Creativity, a 15-minute slide projection arranged by Jane Bland, will run continuously.

The exhibition coincides with the May 5 - 8 meetings of the 18th Annual Conference of the National Committee on Art Education, an organization sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art.

Further information and photographs available from Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., New York City, CI 5-8900.

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