

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMITTEE ON ART EDUCATION TO CONDUCT FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE AT MUSEUM

The 9th Annual Conference of the Committee on Art Education will be held at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from March 15 through March 18, and about 1,000 teachers and parents from all parts of the country are expected to attend. Panel and group discussions under the leadership of outstanding educators will consider such problems as the best art direction for children of various ages and talents, the application of the arts to daily living, films and television in creative education. The aim of the entire conference is to construct a more effective method of teaching both in the home and in the school.

Sessions open to the general public are as follows:

1. Art for the Child at Home, Thursday, March 15, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Museum Penthouse

Moreen Maser, who will conduct this session, is one of the leading teachers at the People's Art Center of the Museum. Her talk will be designed especially for parents who find themselves confronted with the responsibility of the child's early education. Mrs. Maser believes that the parent is actually the child's first art teacher, and she will propose ways in which parents can best fulfil this responsibility, with practical, specific suggestions.

2. What Can Art Do for My Child?, Thursday, March 15, 2-4 p.m., Museum Penthouse

Based on an "Information Please" type of approach, the group making up this panel will prepare no formal talks but will focus attention on problems as they are raised, inviting questions from those attending. The panel of experts is composed of a teacher of pre-school age children, two teachers of older children and 'teen-age young people, a director of an art center for children of all ages, a teacher from a teacher-training school, and a parent of three young children. The leader will be Helen Parkhurst, well-known originator of the Dalton Plan, who has recently organized programs with children on radio and television. Because Miss Parkhurst feels that educators often err in presenting educational dogma to parents who are only interested in their own child, she intends to give the audience the

lead in this session.

3. Art for Today's Living, Saturday, March 17, 1:30-3 p.m.,
Museum Penthouse

Miss Ruth Reeves, outstanding designer and artist, will discuss what the artist feels he can contribute to people, and what people can get from art. Miss Reeves feels that everyone has the means for creative expression, whether they paint or prepare meals or develop human relationships. Each can make design work for him if the experience evolves from the individual's own design pattern for living. This affects groups and societies and is particularly necessary in today's world.

4. Composition in Modern Painting, Saturday, March 17, 1:30-3 p.m.,
Museum Projection Room, 4th
Floor

Milton Wynne, Director of New York's Workshop School of Advertising and Editorial Art, will discuss and analyze several modern paintings for the amateur who seeks a better understanding of modern composition and help in organizing his own work. "The design of a picture is not haphazard or accidental," says Mr. Wynne. "While there are no exact laws for making pictures and no special dogma to be prescribed, each picture demands its own treatment or solution depending on what the artist has to say. The composition is an integral part of the subject matter...."

There will be additional sessions open only to Members of the Committee on topics dealing with the Government's role in education, trends and influences in various forms of art education, marionette projects, methods for evaluating creative work, therapy and art education, etc. Special features will include the showing of art films, workshop programs on various subjects and visits to artists' studios.

In commenting on the purpose of the exhibition, Mr. Victor D'Amico, Chairman of the Committee on Art Education and Director of the Museum's Department of Education, says:

"There is a growing dangerous and mistaken notion that the child let alone, but provided with the 'right' materials, flourishes on his own, and that the art teacher is of secondary importance. Many teachers claim that they don't teach, and that results just happen. Such an attitude not only ignores the hard-fought gains of fifty years of creative art education to which every modern teacher is indebted, but it jeopardizes the creative growth of the child and the future of art education.

"The teacher is, of course, the most vital single factor in education. Today the art teacher must be trained not only in a wide variety of arts, but grounded in the psychology of child development. Good education depends on the teacher's ability to train the child's creative aptitudes and to make him the beneficiary of the values of the arts of the past and present in enriching his daily living.

"This study institute is planned to explore the progress of creative art education in the United States and to define the present influences in the endeavor to construct a more profound and effective method of teaching."