

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Three thousand questionnaires were mailed to families in Northern New Jersey by a "Preparatory Committee of 36 Jersey residents" on Saturday, November 26, to discover how much interest exists in establishing a Jersey art center for children, young people and adults under the sponsorship of the Museum of Modern Art's Peoples' Art Center, in New York. If the response to the questionnaire and letter, which is signed by Dr. Jules Hoffman, of Tenafly, is as large as expected, plans for a New Jersey Art Center, serving Englewood, Teaneck, Tenafly and surrounding communities will be made. Instructors for the Center will come from the Museum's staff and methods used will be those successfully tried for the past 18 years at the Museum's Peoples' Art Center in New York, under the direction of Victor D'Amico.

Classes for children from three years of age to young people up to 18, covering instruction in painting and clay modeling, collage and mobiles, as well as classes where parents and children can work together, and painting, life, composition and crafts classes for adults and discussion and lecture courses on understanding the arts are included in the plans. As in the Museum classes, children will be admitted on the basis of age and no distinction made in regard to talent or special aptitude. Adults are placed in classes according to their experience and choice. Classes will be limited in number to allow individual instruction. Tuition fees will be comparable to those of the Peoples' Art Center of the Museum of Modern Art.

Pointing out that traffic and time problems make it difficult for residents of Northern New Jersey to use the facilities of the Museum's school in New York, Dr. Hoffman says in his letter accompanying the questionnaire, "For some time now many of us who have made our homes in Northern New Jersey have wished that there were a local art center with activities similar to the Peoples' Art Center of the Museum of Modern Art, which would provide an opportunity for creative experience for our children and ourselves....Before any definite plans or practical outline can be made, we must know the number of children and adults interested," he concludes and adds that, of course, filling out the questionnaire, "does not constitute a commitment by you or the Museum of Modern Art."

More than 17000 children and adults have attended classes under Mr. D'Amico's direction, since they were begun in 1937 at the Peoples' Art Center. Two years ago Mr. D'Amico produced a series of programs on television called "Through the Enchanted Gate" in which children and instructors from the classes appeared. Last year the material used on the program was incorporated into a book "Art For The Family" which

has been widely acclaimed all over the country. In addition thousands of children have had a glimpse of the methods used in the Art Center when they attended the Childrens' Holiday Carnival at the Museum, an annual event which gives children an opportunity to paint, make collages and three dimensional pictures in a special gallery workshop set aside for them during the holiday season.

Last summer, for the first time, the Peoples' Art Center established classes outside New York City where courses for adults were given at Springs, Long Island. If the Jersey Art Center is established, it will be the first for both children and adults to be set up by the Museum in the suburban area.

Members of the Preparatory Committee who asked Mr. D'Amico to meet with them last September to discuss the possibilities of a Northern New Jersey Center are:

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Anderson - Tenafly
Estelle Brouner - Teaneck
Marie Conklin - Haworth
Charles Cook - Cresskill
Arthur Davis - Englewood
Raphael Epstein - Edgewater
Philip Gruchkin - Englewood
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hansen - Englewood
Edith Hildebrand - Englewood
Dr. and Mrs. Jules Hoffman - Tenafly
Louise Hunter - Maywood
Nettie King - Leonia
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Kriegel - Englewood
Sam Lieben - Englewood
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Machol - Teaneck
Hallee Morgan - Tenafly
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Moss - Teaneck
Lee Opas - Englewood
Florence Poris - Haworth
Mr. and Mrs. John Ross - Englewood
Julia Sarner - Tenafly
Kay Schick - Teaneck
Peter Small - Teaneck
Mr. and Mrs. Lynel Ward - Leonia
Doris Weber - Haworth
Isabel Willcox - Englewood
Paul Wolf - Cresskill
Natalie Wood - Closter

Additional questionnaires are available from the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, New York.
