

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 135

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, December 15, 1965

PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, December 14, 1965

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

An exhibition of Japanese children's art work will open in the gallery of the Art Center of The Museum of Modern Art, 4 West 54 Street, on December 15, 1965. The show includes 125 paintings, prints, drawings and photographs of sculpture, constructions and three-dimensional work by children, aged 5 through 12. The exhibition will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, until February 19, except December 24, 25, 31, January 1 and 29.

ART WORK OF JAPANESE CHILDREN is one of a series of exhibitions of creative teaching from all over the world presented under the direction of Victor D'Amico, Director of the Museum's Department of Education. Two previous exhibitions held at The Art Center were WORK FROM THE CHILDREN'S ART CARNIVAL IN INDIA and CHILDREN'S ART FROM HONG KONG SCHOOLS.

The current exhibition was selected by Lois Lord as part of<sup>a</sup> study made under a grant from The New World Foundation of artteaching in Japan. During her nine months in Japan, Miss Lord spent three in Tokyo, four in Kyoto living with a Japanese family, and the remainder in rural areas visiting schools and observing the teaching and study methods.

In discussing the exhibition, Miss Lord says: "Art has traditionally been an important part of Japanese culture and observation of nature is evident in Japanese life. From the earliest age children are taken in family groups to see the beauty of nature such as the first greens or cherry blossoms in spring or the red maple trees of autumn. It may be usual for all children to explore nature, but in Japan natural phenomena are constantly pointed out both at home and school. Observation is extended to drawing from nature and school children are taken in groups to sketch in parks or temple grounds."

(more)

Of the childrens' works Miss Lord says: "Often the paintings of Japanese children are full of detail and in some there is an emphasis on pattern .... Most of the work in this exhibition is from public schools in cities, and some from schools in small towns and rural areas. The children come from a variety of economic and social groups .... In most elementary schools art is taught by the classroom teachers. In each school there is a 'head of art' -- that is a teacher with special training and interest in art, who in addition to classroom teaching, helps the other teachers with their teaching."

Miss Lord is Chairman of the Art Department of The New Lincoln School, a member of the faculty of the Bank Street College of Education, and a former instructor of childrens' classes at the People's Art Center, The Museum of Modern Art. She is author of Collage and Construction in the Elementary and Junior High School, published by the Davis Press, and of the film, Collage - Exploring Texture, produced by Alexander Hammid, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Chicago.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Nancy Sage, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.