

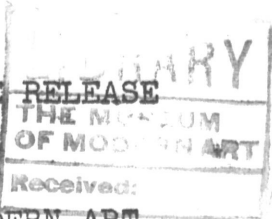
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION OF WORK FROM THE VETERANS' ART CENTER AND



INAUGURATION OF A PEOPLE'S ART CENTER AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

An exhibition of painting, sculpture, design studies, jewelry, furniture and ceramics done by veterans in the Museum's War Veterans' Art Center will open at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., on Wednesday, September 1 on the 2nd floor. It will remain on view until October 10. The War Veterans' Art Center for four years offered free courses to men and women who served in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Marine. The Center closed on June 30 of this year to become, as a logical development, a new People's Art Center open to the public for registration until September 11. Here the veteran will be welcomed as a civilian along with non-veteran civilians rather than as a special member of society.

The work on view is a selection from the War Veterans' Art Center. The operation of this Center is described by Victor D'Amico, Director of the War Veterans' Art Center and of its successor the People's Art Center, as follows:

"The principal object of the Center was to help veterans adjust themselves through the creative process. It was primarily an orientation to the arts. There was no attempt to produce artists or to train on a professional level. But while the majority of veterans had discovered art for the first time or had revived a childhood interest in art, many of them were art students and professional artists who used the experience gained at the Center as a foundation or as refresher training.

"Classes met in three-hour sessions for a period of three months for either one or two evenings a week. During this period the veteran explored his aptitude for the special art he chose and at the same time received a basic foundation for pursuing it further either as a professional art student or as a hobby at home.

"Classes were organized and discontinued according to the needs and interests of the veterans. 1,485 veterans were served by the Center. These included a wide variety of interest and background such as art students, professional artists, doctors, salesmen, occupational therapists and housewives. A new teaching technique had to be devised to meet the varied backgrounds, but the focus was on individual development and satisfaction. This exhibition shows only the products produced by the veteran, but it is unfortunate that the real satisfaction in individual growth and rehabilitation cannot be demonstrated or exhibited."

THE PEOPLE'S ART CENTER

Because of the vital function of a creative arts center in the community and society as a whole, the Museum of Modern Art is opening a People's Art Center not only as a continuation of the children's classes, conducted for several years, but also for adult recreational and professional needs, employing also the outstandingly successful techniques developed with the veterans over the past four years.

Experimental in nature, the Center offers a series, "Understanding Your Child through Art," for parents of children aged 3 to 12 years to help parents towards a greater development and education of children through the encouragement of creative expression at home. Useful application and a broader understanding are the aims of a course offered on design for the small home or apartment and of one on "Understanding Modern Painting."

To project into professional fields is the purpose of newly developed classes on "The Arts in Therapy" for doctors, psychologists and occupational therapists; on "Art for Business or Professional People"; on "Fundamentals of Design" for students and professional artists.

The recreational assets of the arts are developed in an "Orientation" class for beginners to discover their aptitudes, and in special courses in painting, pottery and ceramic sculpture, jewelry and woodworking.

Emphasis on the creative development of the average individual characterizes the continuing painting courses for children and young people classed according to age level. For children with special interests and aptitudes, "Pottery Making" and "Ceramic Sculpture" offer plastic expression; "Art for Boys" is an experiment to satisfy boys' inventive and constructive interests.

Information regarding all classes may be obtained from the Educational Program, Museum of Modern Art. The classes themselves will be held on the 2nd floor of 681 Fifth Avenue, near 53 Street. Registration for classes must be completed by September 11.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE MUSEUM'S RECENT AQUISITIONS WILL OPEN ON
SEPTEMBER 15
