

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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EXPERIMENTS IN MOBILE DESIGN SHOWN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Constructions in wire, wood, glass, color transparencies, and other materials comprise an exhibition EXPERIMENTS IN MOBILE DESIGN which will open in the Young People's Gallery of the Museum of Modern Art Wednesday, January 15. The exhibition, which will continue through March 23, also includes several color organs, or the projection of changing designs on flat and three-dimensional screens; two of these designs are synchronized with music.

The exhibition shows the results of an experiment by the Educational Program in exploring new and vital methods of teaching design to high school students. Its purpose is to stimulate students and teachers to see design more creatively and freely. It is hoped that in it they will find new ideas, techniques, and materials for their exploration of design.

The experiment began two and a half years ago with fifteen freshmen (fourteen and fifteen years old) in one of the classes of the Museum's Educational Program for New York City high schools. The class was conducted like a laboratory where each student pursued his own project, but exchanged ideas and criticisms with the others. The students spent the first year acquiring a basic foundation in design. The second year each student was encouraged to explore and develop his own design potentialities. During the past six months the class, as a whole, worked on the arrangement of the exhibition, selecting the most significant pieces, planning the installation, and contributing suggestions for the labels.

The instructor of the Museum's class in mobile design was Sue Fuller, painter, graphic artist, and designer. Miss Fuller is represented in a number of collections including the National Gallery, the Carnegie Institute, the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Baltimore Art Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Chicago Art Institute. Commenting upon the work and method of the Museum's design class, Miss Fuller says:

"I have a fundamental faith in the fact that students already possess within themselves untold realms of creative ideas and the ability to express them. The student must, however, be awakened to the nature of that innate individual endowment and this is not done by the application of external standards for imitation or by acquiring an indoctrination of techniques. I consider teaching to be the setting of the stage which stimulates an attitude of discovery in the student. This was my basic method of instruction."