

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS COMPETITION FOR DESIGNS  
TO BE USED IN THERAPY FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Pioneering in a new field, the Museum of Modern Art has opened a competition for fresh and original designs and objects to be used in therapeutic work among disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States Forces. The Competition, open to all artists and designers regardless of their affiliation with any organized group, will close December 1 and will be judged by a jury composed of members of the Museum staff, professional therapists and merchandising experts.

Five hundred dollars in prizes will be awarded as follows:

First Prize	\$100.	5 Fourth Prizes, each	\$25.
Second Prize	75.	15 Fifth Prizes, each	10.
Third Prize	50.		

Contestants are urged to suggest new media and new designs, as there is great need for these in practical form, accompanied by description of their use and by objects executed in the medium described. Suggestions for contestants and a list of objects commonly made by patients are given at the end of this announcement.

All designs and objects accepted by the jury, whether prize winners or not, will be shown in a special exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition will be held from January 20 through February 28. Simultaneously with the exhibition, the Museum will publish a booklet with full directions, illustrations and patterns of the objects and designs shown in the exhibition. Both booklet and exhibition will be called The Arts in Therapy.

James T. Soby, Director of the Museum's Armed Services Program which is conducting the Competition, comments on it as follows:

"American artists and designers who are eager to offer their services in the war effort can make a genuine contribution by providing design guidance in occupational therapy. Its aim is threefold: to provide occupation, diversion and cure. The remedial work involved in creating well-designed objects contributes not only to physical recovery but also to the patient's mental rehabilitation.

"At present the occupational therapist must rely chiefly on his own and his patient's ingenuity in creating suitable articles. There is an urgent need for new designs and objects which will stimulate the imagination of the patient as well as offer him the opportunity of creating a

saleable article which may become a source of income.

"The work of the occupational therapist among the soldiers and sailors who have been disabled or shell-shocked in the war will increase enormously. For this reason the Museum of Modern Art is asking artists and designers, as a part of their war effort, to make and submit for exhibition at the Museum attractive and useful articles which the therapists can use as models for their patients. In this way artists will be performing a truly important service for which there is great demand."

Requests for Competition programs and entry blanks should be sent to:

Armed Services Program  
The Museum of Modern Art  
11 West 53 Street  
New York, New York

It would be helpful for the contestant to bear in mind the following suggestions:

- a. Articles small enough to be made while the patient is in bed are urgently needed.
- b. No inflammable material may be used.
- c. Hospital budgets are limited; employ inexpensive materials.
- d. Materials should be easily obtainable; consider priorities.
- e. It is suggested that artists wishing to do research work on occupational therapy before entering designs and objects in the competition should visit a hospital with an occupational therapy department. Make appointments in advance.

List of Articles Commonly made by Patients

(The primary purpose of this list is to offer suggestions to the artist. New ideas are urgently needed.)

WOOD WORK: Children's furniture, occasional tables, luggage racks, footstools, hanging shelves, door stops, screens, frames, toys.

WOOD CARVING: Boxes, plaques, bookends, picture frames, paper-knives, desk sets.

BASKET WORK: Flower pots, trays, sewing baskets, fruit baskets, sandwich baskets, flower baskets.

LEATHER WORK (leather articles should be designed with an eye to ease of preparation): Wallets, cases for coins, keys, etc., book covers, cases for books, letters, etc.

WEAVING: Purses, bags, scarves, covers, table sets, upholstery material, rugs.

CLAY MODELLING (self-hardening): Figurines, ash trays, bowls.

POTTERY: Tiles, plates, ash trays, vases.

RAFFIA WORK: Coasters, woven runners, etc.

HOOKING

CROCHETING

KNOTTING

LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTING

KNITTING.