

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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## CHILDREN'S ART WORK ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Two exhibitions of children's art work, CREATIVE ART BY CHILDREN FROM MANY NATIONS, from the United Nations International School in New York, and THE ART TEACHING OF BELLE BOAS, from classes under the direction of the late pioneer art educator at the Baltimore Museum of Art, will be on view from March 22 through May 2 in a section of the first floor galleries of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street.

CREATIVE ART BY CHILDREN OF MANY NATIONS shows the art experiences of children from 20 countries working in the same school and is presented as a striking illustration of the universal appeal of art. In the United Nations International School in New York, teachers report that language barriers are less of a handicap in the art room than in any other class; that art serves students and teachers alike as a kind of universal language through which they are able to share what they have in common as well as compare and come to understand and appreciate their national distinctions.

The paintings, puppets and papier mâché sculptures have been selected and arranged according to national groups by Victor D'Amico, Director of Education at the Museum.

"This exhibition," says Mr. D'Amico, "is another example of the child's natural creativeness regardless of nationality or background. The differences of cultural training and national customs often give the work a special character but they do not basically change the child's expressiveness. The exhibition is both an example of sound creative teaching and offers evidence that art is a universal language, at least for children."

Certain national or cultural differences in the children's attitudes toward creative art, revealed by the grouping, are described by Maria Gonska, art teacher at the International School:

"Very young American children express themselves in unrestrained, spontaneous fashion while oriental children show an acute dexterity, visual memory and a feeling for stilted form. Middle European children have a tendency to express the richness of peasant design and color enjoyment . . . the sun appears as a prominent symbol in the paintings of children from South American Countries."

(more)

"The subject matter of the paintings by very young children," says Mrs. Gonska, "reflects chiefly the child's individual personality and experience. As the children mature and the school curriculum utilizes their growing appreciation of their national heritages, their art expression becomes increasingly reflective of their individual cultural identity."

THE ART TEACHING OF BELLE BOAS is a testimony to the creative methods of teaching and principles of art education promoted by Miss Boas during her ten years as instructor and Director of Education at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

"The exhibition of paintings, collages and clay sculptures illustrates Miss Boas' work with average children," writes Adelyn Breeskin, Director of the Baltimore Museum of Art, "and reveals her rich personality and rare talent for stimulating the imagination and awakening a sense of fantasy."

Miss Boas, a dedicated teacher and pioneer in art education, was an early member of the Committee on Art Education and continued to be one of its most active members until her death in 1953. She has been nationally acclaimed for her creative teaching which is evidenced not only in the work of the children whom she taught, but also in the work of her former adult students who are now teaching throughout the country.

Both of these exhibitions are being presented in connection with the 12th Annual Conference of the Committee on Art Education being held at the Museum of Modern Art. Members of the Committee will preview the exhibitions at a reception Friday evening, March 19.