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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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## # 29 COMMITTEE ON ART EDUCATION TO HOLD 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT MMA

More than 1000 art educators from all parts of the country are expected to attend the 12th annual conference of the Committee on Art Education at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from March 18 through 21. The theme of the conference is ART EDUCATION AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS and a series of 50 talks and group discussions led by outstanding educators, artists and authorities in related fields will be presented. Archibald MacLeish, author and Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University, will give the major speech on the theme of the conference Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Commenting on the theme of this year's conference, Victor D'Amico, Chairman of the Committee and Director of Education at the Museum of Modern Art, said:

"The Committee has chosen this year to focus its attention on the creative processes because it feels that creative art education has now reached a point where it needs to define its aims and methods more clearly. While the importance of creative art education, for children as well as for adults, is largely accepted in principle, many misconceptions have grown around it. The current emphasis on the psychological value of art and art as therapy has obscured and in many cases undermined its true value. The Committee has chosen Mr. MacLeish as its major speaker because he is himself a creative artist as well as being a scholar of the arts."

Among the many problems to be considered in the 22 general sessions scheduled for this year are: THE ARTIST AS A FREE HUMAN BEING, personal testimonies by a panel of five nationally known American artists, led by Jimmy Ernst; THE MUSEUM'S ROLE IN CREATIVE TEACHING, a group discussion led by Hanna T. Rose, curator of Education at the Brooklyn Museum; the future of ART EDUCATION IN TELEVISION and ART EDUCATION IN A SMALL COMMUNITY; and the problem of the BRILLIANT CHILD enrolled in school programs geared to the average child. Another general session, THE ADMINISTRATOR LOOKS AT ART EDUCATION, led by Francis Velleman, Professor of Education at the New York University School of Education, will present estimates of art education by leading administrators in the field.

In addition to the general meetings, 6 seminars, composed of three or more sessions each, are planned. For the first time this year a seminar will be given on

ART FOR THE FAMILY for the purpose of studying how happier relationships within the family group may be developed through creative art activities. Among the sessions included in this seminar will be a group discussion, in which participants will include Dorothy Barclay, Parent and Child Editor of the New York Times, on The Parents' Role in the Creative Family, a talk on The Arts We Live By by Harry Giles, Director of the New York University Center for Human Relations Studies, and a group discussion on Creative Art For Senior Members of the Family - Over 60, in which representatives from various community centers will participate.

Another new seminar this year, THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE ARTS is designed to measure the interrelations of the methods and goals shared by teachers of art, music, literature and dance and to illuminate the advantages of correlating these arts in school programs. Sessions for this seminar will include a performance by "THE MERRY-GO-ROUNDERS", an adult dance repertory group specializing in performances combining dance, drama, art and music for children. In another session, Vivian Fine, composer, and her husband Ben Karp, professor of art at New Paltz State Teachers College, will illustrate the successful combination of music and the fine arts.

Other seminars will be held on TELEVISION AND ART EDUCATION, dealing with the content and techniques of producing TV programs designed to promote better art education and including visits to local TV studios; PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY AND ART EDUCATION, where-in eminent psychologists psychiatrists and social workers will explore insights into personality development and the techniques of psychology and psychiatry with relation to the creative processes; A BASIC APPROACH FOR INTEGRATING THE ARTS AND CRAFTS, devoted to the formulation of a sound philosophy and practical plans for integrating arts and crafts in educational programs; and TEACHING VERSUS TRAINING, emphasizing perceptual processes as they relate to positive and negative conditions in learning and growth.

In addition to the general sessions and seminars open to members of the Committee, four public meetings are scheduled for this year. They include two talks for amateurs artists: ADVICE TO "SUNDAY" PAINTERS, a talk by Zoltan Hecht, artist and instructor at the Museum's People's Art Center, on such problems as what the amateur artist should expect of his creative ability and how he can evaluate his progress, and MATERIALS FOR THE AMATEUR ARTIST, to be discussed and demonstrated by Alexander Abels, head of the

Department of Painting at the Stella Elkins Tyler School of Fine Arts. **HELPING YOUR CHILD THROUGH ART**, will be the title of a speech by Elizabeth Spiro, instructor at the People's Art Center, on <sup>materials,</sup> methods and attitudes toward creative art with which parents of children between the ages of 3 to 6 should be familiar and the special values to be gained by working at home. The problem of pseudo art courses by mail, television courses that teach copying and numbers kits - **A GROWING MENACE** - will be discussed by a panel of 7 headed by Victor D'Amico and including eminent educators, artists and a child psychiatrist.

The Committee on Art Education was founded twelve years ago to study the progress of art education in this country and to endeavour to formulate and promote new and increasingly effective methods of teaching.