

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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education

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Gay paintings of animals and people by Italian children from the "Mazzon School" in Milan, Italy, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from February 16 through March 20 in an exhibition selected by Victor D'Amico, Director of the Museum's Department of Education. This is the first exhibition from this school in America, although paintings from the "Mazzon School" have been shown in Venice, Rome, Paris and Amsterdam.

Galliano Mazzon, the art educator who has taught generations of Italian children and whose name is used to describe a teaching method that emphasizes creative expression rather than copying, teaches at a secondary school in Milan, the Alfredo Panzini School. The twenty-one paintings in the exhibition, on view in the Museum's first floor Young People's Gallery, were done by children between the ages of 13 and 15 in his classes at that school.

The "Mazzon School" has acquired such renown in Italy that the government permits the work of its students to be preserved, although ordinarily school notebooks and papers are sent to mills to be converted into paper pulp for new paper. Color postcards of paintings in the exhibition will be sold at the Museum while the exhibition is on view here.

Commenting on the exhibition, Mr. D'Amico says:

"It is always interesting to study the art work and educational methods of other countries and teachers and to compare them with those used in American schools. The flat decorative colors which give the work a formal pattern and quality seem to be the result of the emphasis given under Mr. Mazzon's direction. A few are more spontaneous in technique and resemble the work of American children in more creative schools, but these are called "rough drafts" by Mr. Mazzon. The subjects are in most instances like those chosen by American children, such as animals and portraits, but both the subjects and the simplicity of composition, except for the stylization, are more commonly done by younger children in our schools."

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Mr. Mazzon believes that children should be encouraged to express themselves freely in drawings and color. The child selects his own subjects and then creates his own picture, with Mr. Mazzon helping him preserve the images that his fancy develops. In an article in "Education and Art" published in 1953 by UNESCO, Mr. Mazzon said: "I am convinced that every boy or girl, without exception, has something to say and express. It is simply a question of knowing how to call it forth."

The pictures in the exhibition, which has been made possible through the cooperation of Artex Prints, Inc., are loaned through the courtesy of Mr. Manuel, Mr. Halevy, Mr. Lefebvre, Mr. Duhamel, Mr. Gheerbrant, Mr. Delpire, and Mr. Mazzon.

This is one of a continuing series of exhibitions presented by the Museum's Department of Education to show the variety of teaching methods used and to compare educational philosophies. Other countries from which children's art work has been exhibited by the Museum of Modern Art are: Belgium, China, England, France, Holland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Spain, and Sweden.

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NOTE: Photographs and additional material available from Elizabeth Shaw,  
Publicity Director, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street,  
Circle 5 - 8900.