

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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EXPERIMENTS IN CREATIVE ART TEACHING, by Victor D'Amico. 64 pages; 76 plates; paper. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed to booksellers throughout the world by Doubleday and Co., Inc. \$2.50. Publication date: November 18, 1960.

Experiments in Creative Art Teaching, by Victor D'Amico, a study of ideas and methods developed by the Department of Education at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, will be published by the Museum on November 18. In this progress report, Mr. D'Amico, Director of the Department since its beginning in 1937, describes a pioneering approach to art education involving child, adult and teacher. The book is illustrated with 76 photographs.

After defining the role of art education in the Museum, Mr. D'Amico answers questions often asked by parents: Does my child have talent? Should my child take art if he has no talent? When should you begin to correct the child's mistakes? What is wrong with coloring books?

In the second section, concerned with practical application of theory, Mr. D'Amico describes classes for children, young people and adults at the Museum and at summer vacation sessions on eastern Long Island. The Children's Carnival of Modern Art is then discussed. Designed to stimulate the child's creative imagination and sensitivity to the elements of art, the Carnival, which originated nineteen years ago at the Museum, has also been visited by thousands of children in Milan, Barcelona, and at the Brussels World's Fair.

Mr. D'Amico continues with a discussion of the Museum's 23 year period of cooperation with the New York City public high schools in providing visual materials and resources to 175,000 students annually. The available exhibitions, teaching portfolios, slide talks, and models constitute a dynamic program of instruction. A chapter on the National Committee on Art Education, sponsored by the Museum, examines the organization's campaign against contests, copy books and paint-by-number kits; and the effort to promote better television art programs and improved education for the classroom teacher.

The possibilities of educational television are suggested in an analysis of a successful Museum experiment, Through the Enchanted Gate (1952-53), in which children and parents worked creatively before the cameras.

Mr. D'Amico also states his concern with our increasing technological involvement:

"If, through a rush toward an accelerated science program we lose our cultural freedom and sacrifice the richness of a broad program of learning, we shall unwittingly play into the hands of the enemy and fulfill his wishes by our own lack of wisdom and foresight."

Review copies are available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Director of Publicity, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. CI 5-8900.