

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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ART AND THE INTELLECT by Harold Taylor. 62 pages. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, N. Y. Distributed to booksellers throughout the world by Doubleday and Co., Inc. 75 cents.

Two essays by the prominent educator, Harold Taylor, have been published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in a 62-page paperback entitled Art and the Intellect. Mr. Taylor's lucid statements on the moral and intellectual contribution of the creative arts were originally delivered at National Committee on Art Education Conferences in 1952 and 1960.

Rejecting the theory that the intellect functions separately from other human faculties, Mr. Taylor defines it as an activity of the whole organism, beginning in the senses with direct experience of facts, events and ideas and involving the emotions. The general misunderstanding of the nature of the intellect has resulted in a minor role for the arts in schools and colleges.

In his plea for independent thought in a time of pressure toward the "safety of anonymous opinion" Mr. Taylor points out that the sensibility derived from the experience of art is essential to creative thinking in all fields. Academic training often teaches the student not to think for himself, but to memorize and accept organized bodies of fact. Through art one gains insight into the meaning of free choice of ideas and free emotional response. Summarizing the importance of art education Mr. Taylor says:

We teach the meaning of freedom when we teach the young to explore the world of imagination and art. We give the private instruction which can enable young men and women to hold out against the torrent. We help to restore the intellectual vitality, the self confidence, the moral dignity of the contemporary individual by the imaginative reconstruction of human experience.

Mr. Taylor, a leading spokesman for progressive education, was formerly President of Sarah Lawrence College, where for fourteen years he pioneered in modern teaching methods. He recently resigned to devote himself entirely to teaching and writing. He is the author of more than 200 articles as well as On Education and Freedom and co-author and editor of Essays in Teaching.

Art and the Intellect was published by the Museum of Modern Art for the National Committee on Art Education, a group of approximately 1,000 art teachers sponsored by the Museum. The book is available at the Museum and in bookstores throughout the country for 75 cents.

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Review copies are available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900.