

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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PRESS PREVIEW:
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An exhibition of Children's Art from Hong Kong Schools opens in the exhibition gallery of The Art Center of The Museum of Modern Art, 4 West 54 Street, on March 9. The second in a new series of exhibitions presenting art education methods and techniques from all parts of the world, the show includes 80 richly patterned paintings and prints and 10 paper cut-out figures by children from seven to seventeen years of age.

The exhibition will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday until April 3. Admission to The Art Center, located on the lower level of the Museum's new 54th Street Wing, is free.

The children's work was sent from Hong Kong at the request of Victor D'Amico, Director of the Museum's Department of Education, who saw the first Children's Art Exhibit organized by the City Hall Art Gallery of Hong Kong in 1963. The works in the present exhibition were selected by Michael F. Griffith, Inspector of Art of the Education Department of Hong Kong.

According to Mr. Griffith, "The aim of our teaching is primarily for enjoyment, although all of the usual educational reasons might be given. Most of the children are Chinese and come from homes with very little means. Nearly all of the children have art classes from the age of five to the age of thirteen or fourteen. Most of the themes of the pictures are done from memory as the City is too crowded to allow going out and working directly from the scene, although some of the work of the New Territories may be done on the spot. In general, the themes chosen relate to festivals and holidays, but individual choice is also encouraged. The environment of the children is so crowded and noisy that paintings expressing this atmosphere are naturally in the majority."

A variety of media is used in the works: chalk, crayon, print-making techniques and paper cut-out. One of the most popular forms is the paper-print, which is made more...

by cutting a shape from strong brown paper and then applying it to another sheet of paper which is then inked. Absorbant printing paper is then laid over the inked "block" and pressed down; when the paper is separated the paper-print results. This medium grows out of the Chinese traditions of stone rubbing and paper cutting.

Another form which is popular with the children is the cut-out figure, painted in bright colors, which resembles figures from Chinese drama.

The Art Center, which houses the Museum's educational facilities, offers classes for children from 3 to 12, young people from 12 to 18, and adult amateurs. It is the only institution of its kind devoted exclusively to the creative development of children and non-professional artists. More than 1,700 adults and children were enrolled in classes during the past semester.

The first exhibition in the current series was "Work from the Children's Carnival in India," 60 paintings and 25 collages selected from 14,000 works by 7,000 children made during the first 5 1/2 weeks that the Carnival was in New Delhi, while under supervision of the staff sent there by The Museum of Modern Art.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.