

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## VICTOR D'AMICO (1904-1987)

Victor D'Amico, an internationally distinguished teacher, leader in the field of art education, and longtime staff member of The Museum of Modern Art, died on April 1 at the age of eighty-two in Southampton, New York. A resident of Amagansett, Mr. D'Amico is survived by his wife Mabel.

Mr. D'Amico joined the staff of the Museum in 1937 as Director of the Department of Education, a position he held until his retirement in 1969. In 1944 he directed the Museum's War Veteran's Art Center, a project which in 1948 became the People's Art Center. In 1960 he became President and Director of The Institute of Modern Art, a nonprofit organization that was responsible for the Museum's school program.

David Rockefeller, Jr., Trustee of The Museum of Modern Art and Chairman of its Trustee Committee on Education, stated, "The extensive educational effort at The Museum of Modern Art led by Victor D'Amico was of great interest to my grandmother Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and my uncle Nelson, both of whom helped support his series of seminal publications, the creation of the Committee on Art in American Education and Society, and the exemplary programs which emanated from the Museum itself. His monumental influence on the field made the Museum one of the important leaders in education. He was a good friend and an inspiration to my family."

William Rubin, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, added, "If my love of art was fixed early in life, then my whole career was probably influenced more by Victor D'Amico than anyone else. . . . His immense exuberance and love for artistic study was extraordinarily infectious, and I am

sure that I am far from alone in having carried the experience of Victor D'Amico's teaching with me for a whole lifetime."

Mr. D'Amico was the creator of numerous innovations in art education, among them the Children's Art Carnival, a combination toy gallery and studio workshop presented annually at the Museum from 1942 to 1969. For a number of years the event was also presented internationally under the auspices of the United States government in Milan, Barcelona, Brussels, and New Delhi.

Mr. D'Amico produced a series of Museum-sponsored National Broadcasting Company television programs in 1952 and 1953 called "Through the Enchanted Gate," which were designed to develop the art interests of children and their parents.

He was Professor of Art Education at New York University and Southampton College of Long Island University, and guest teacher at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. D'Amico also taught art at the Millbrook School for Boys, the University of Wisconsin, Columbia University Teachers College, and the Fieldston School, where he was head of the art department for twenty-two years. Among his many publications are Creative Teaching in Art, Art for the Family (with Moreen Maser and Frances Wilson), Experiments in Creative Art Teaching, Assemblage (with Arlette Buchman), and numerous articles.

Born in New York City in 1904, Mr. D'Amico studied at Cooper Union and Pratt Institute and received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Columbia University Teachers College. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from the Philadelphia Museum College of Fine Art in 1964.

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