

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

May 5, 1941.

TO Art Editors
City Editors
Education Editors

Dear Sirs:

You are invited to come or send a representative to

Press Preview of
Most important gift of modern paintings received
by the Museum since the Bliss Bequest
and
Young People's Exhibition of Understanding Modern Art

Tuesday, May 6
2 to 6 P. M.

at The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 St., New York.

These two exhibitions will be open to the public Wednesday, May 7.

If you wish any further information please telephone me at Circle 5-8900.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Newmeyer

Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNDERSTANDING MODERN ART SUBJECT OF EXHIBITION
IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GALLERY AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

An experiment in the method of teaching the appreciation of modern art will be graphically illustrated in an exhibition entitled Understanding Modern Art, opening Wednesday, May 7, in the Young People's Gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. The experiment has been carried on throughout the current school year by the Educational Project of the Museum in collaboration with the School Art League of the New York City Public Schools. In the exhibition there will be original paintings and color reproductions by well known modern artists as well as paintings and written comments by the students participating in the course. About forty student paintings will be on view.

The object of the experiment has been to interpret modern art to high school students and to devise more congenial methods of developing art appreciation. The students selected from the School Art League classes were divided into two groups, known as the verbal and the visual type. The verbal type--students who found discussion and verbal observation more conducive to learning than actual drawing or painting--studied art by written exercises and lively group reaction and comment. The class work of this group will be shown by original paintings and reproductions by modern artists, together with the students' written comments and observations printed directly below the picture under consideration.

The visual type, on the other hand, learned better through actual participation in creative work. Working from the point of view and in the media of the art movement they were studying, these students learned first hand about Cubism, Impressionism, Expressionism and Abstract art. In this group original paintings will be hung side by side with the students' experiments in painting. Among the modern artists whose work will be shown are Matisse, Cézanne, Rouault and Picasso.

The conclusions drawn from the experiment suggest that in teaching art a greater appreciation and understanding and a more active interest is derived from recognizing the difference between the visual and verbal types, then teaching them according to their natural aptitudes and inclinations. It was also found that the examples presented for study were an important factor in the students' response: large reproductions were preferred to small ones, and original works of art were even more successful in awakening the students' interest. Discussion and active participation were generally preferred to straight lectures by the teacher.

The exhibition will continue through the month of May in the Young People's Gallery on the third floor. This gallery is part of the Museum's Educational Project which was established in 1937 under the direction of Victor E. D'Amico, head of the department.