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Calendar of Events March 1942

Brown/RISD Community Art Project

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



CALENDAR
of
ART EVENTS

MARCH
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Volume Nine

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CHILDREN IN THE MUSEUM OF ART

Barbara Wriston and Helen Nerney

THIS year many children have made the newly decorated Junior Room a center for their activities. Fluorescent lights, bright yellow walls with a brown chair rail placed at a child's eye level, exhibition cases, low work tables, and small stools constitute the furnishings, and a Junior Bulletin Board just outside the door tells young visitors the hours when the room is open and lists events of special interest to them. Inside the room they find rotating exhibitions planned especially for children, a book deposit from the Providence Public Library, and simple drawing materials. The Library changes its deposit every two months, but allows favorites to be renewed, which helps our more frequent visitors to become acquainted with a variety of books. Gradually the Museum, with the help of the School of Design Library, is building its own small collection of children's books thus supplementing the book deposit. During school vacations story hours are often held on weekday afternoons, sometimes these are accompanied by slides or held in galleries which illustrate the stories of the day. Sunday story hours, begun last year, have proved so successful that they have become a regular Sunday feature. Children come to hear the stories while their parents are upstairs at lectures and concerts or they come alone.

Many eager children come into the Museum after school because the Junior Room is open daily from 3:30-4:30. One child may hunt for a particular object in the Museum or show newcomers old favorites, another will settle down with a book describing boys and girls who lived in other times and places, interest having been aroused through some Museum exhibit.

Beginning with an exhibition called "The Christmas Story in Art", made up of colored reproductions of famous paintings, we have had a new exhibition every two weeks. The next, called "Winter in Art" not only had reproductions, but also two paintings from the Museum's own collection. One of these proved so popular that it has been hanging in the Junior Room ever since, inspiring a Museum game and becoming the center for much discussion. Another, "Nature in Art" showed how much modern, as well as ancient, designers use Nature. Objects from plant life, queer shells, and all sorts of butterflies and insects, lent by Miss Edna Lawrence, were used. Drawings and paintings by a group of her students in the Nature Drawing course gave the children ideas for making designs of their own. This exhibition also showed our young visitors that the Museum is part of a large and diversified institution besides teaching them about Nature. Because several schools have shown an interest in American Indians, the Junior Room had an exhibition of "Indian Arts in the United States". Bright colored posters, put out by the Department of the Interior, and examples of Indian craft work, both ancient and modern, were exhibited side by side with the model of an Indian village made by the Monday afternoon Indian club.

Children who have become deeply interested in the Museum are encouraged to join one of the Junior Museum Clubs. Members pay a small fee for each semester and decide for themselves just which club they will join. The Saturday morning club spends its time learning about the Museum and experimenting with various techniques. Tours through the galleries, followed by drawing or modelling something that caught

their attention, train the children to observe; slide talks provide geographical background for the collection; and Junior Room exhibitions give inspiration for creative work. An after school club on Mondays, mentioned above, is run by one of the volunteer workers in the Museum. This is a rather small group, and last term decided to employ the entire time on one subject — American Indians — making a village and its inhabitants, with their clothes and such furniture as Indians might have had. They chose the Indians of the central plains and began by making a small lake and adjoining land for their houses. Next they made frames, covering them in the fashion of the central Indians, except for one dwelling which was left open to show the construction. Now canoes float on the pond, squaws tend fires, and small Indians watch over papooses. The village makes the children's contribution to the exhibition. The third club is a group of first and second graders from St. Dunstan's School who come to the Museum every Friday afternoon and use the Junior Room as a center for seeing how much they can find here about people they study in school. These boys have studied the Egyptians and are now studying American Indians.

Tying together the informal after school program and the club work with the school program is the "Museum News For Junior Visitors". This newspaper goes out the first of each month to more than two hundred and fifty schools in Providence, Cranston and other near-by towns both in Rhode Island and in Massachusetts. News items about various groups visiting the Museum, announcements regarding the Junior Clubs and notices of exhibitions are published in each issue. It has proved successful by bringing Museum programs to schools not receiving notices and by encouraging groups who have never been here, to visit the Museum.

The Public Schools continue to send regularly scheduled classes to the Museum every school day and Cranston is also sending groups of grade school children twice weekly. This makes Providence one of the few cities whose School Department has a definite program for using the Museum through the entire year. As in other cities, individual teachers frequently schedule special trips for grades not included in the regular schedule. We send penny post cards to the teachers which they return after having put down pertinent information about their classes and checking the gallery they prefer to see. Many who visit the Museum look for a definite

object because they have had "Pictures of the Week". These are good sized photographs of Museum objects, carefully matted, and circulated through the Cranston schools. To follow up the trip, the children receive, while at the Museum, mimeographed notebook sheets having a simple line drawing of an object seen by the class, a short descriptive text suited to the age of the group, and information on Museum hours and activities. So far the "Pictures of the Week" have been available only to the Cranston schools, but we hope to extend their use in Providence next fall. The Museum also circulates to the schools a series of large photographs from its collection of Rhode Island architecture pictures. They range in size from 24" x 30" to 30" x 40" and have been used by schools in connection with their "Know Your City" program and as a part of their history courses. We loan them to schools free of charge, the only stipulation being that the school call for and return them. Sometimes a lecturer from the Museum staff visits the school to give an Assembly talk, using slides or the pictures themselves for illustration.

Conversely, the Museum holds exhibitions from the schools showing work done in art classes. This month we are having one from the Cranston grade schools which is on exhibition in the lecture hall of the Museum. There are two reasons for having such exhibitions: first to encourage the children in their efforts, and second, to give them an opportunity to bring their parents to the Museum. In this way the Museum makes new friends and shows visitors that here is a place for their children to learn outside school and a place for themselves to find relaxation and enjoyment.

During February we inaugurated a program of Saturday afternoon movies for children. The first performance fell on a miserable day of rain, slush and sleet; nevertheless, a goodly number of children and a few adults braved the bad weather. Here again is a double purpose in showing free movies. They are intended, first of all, to dramatize some aspect of the Museum collection. Usually children ask to see some real things from the period depicted in the movie; for example, seeing one in which John Quincy Adams had a prominent part, they want to look at his chair which stands in the lobby. In this way, by combining an illustrated story in the shape of a movie and actual objects in the Museum galleries, history is made more real. The other purpose is to introduce the Museum to newcomers, because many children who visit with their school classes, in spite of all efforts, do not realize that they are welcome to return after school and on Saturdays and Sundays. The movies attract their attention, bring them in and help them understand what a small part of the Museum collection it is possible to see on one short school visit.

The foregoing is a sketch of some of the things which children have been doing in the Museum during the last few months. Much of this program would have been utterly impossible without the constructive and loyal assistance of our staff of volunteer workers. Five girls from the Junior League of Providence volunteer a combined total of six full days each week. Without that six days of work, the Museum staff would be unable to carry on their program. We look to the volunteers as well as the Museum staff and the schools in carrying out future ideas.



EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF RHODE ISLAND

Andover, Mass., Addison Gallery of American Art

Feb. 20-April 1—Exhibition of Cartoons by Francis Dahl of the Boston Herald.

Boston, Mass., The Guild of Boston Artists

March 2-March 14—Exhibition of paintings by Ture Bengtz.
March 16-March 28—Exhibition of paintings by Marian P. Sloane.

Boston, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts

Feb. 16-March 16—Exhibition of paintings by contemporary American expressionists.
March 19-June 14—Exhibition of Miniature American Rooms by Mrs. James Ward Thorne.
March—Exhibition of 18th Century American Arts from the M. and M. Karolik collection.

Pittsfield, Mass., The Berkshire Museum

March 4-March 31—Exhibition of printed cottons.
March 4-March 31—Exhibition of water colors from the Massachusetts Art Project.
March 4-March 31—Exhibition of paintings by Berkshire artists.

Springfield, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts

To March 8—Exhibition of paintings by artists of the Connecticut Valley.
To March 15—Exhibition of early Netherlandish paintings.
March 1-March 15—Civilian Defense Poster exhibit and contest.
March 1-March 31—Exhibition of collectors items by the Longmeadow Women's Club.
March 22-April 12—Exhibition of the Deerfield Valley Art Association.

Wellesley, Mass., Wellesley College Art Museum

To March 8—Exhibition of twelve small French paintings, lent by the Museum of Modern Art.

Worcester, Mass., Worcester Art Museum

To March 22—Exhibition of a decade of American paintings, 1930-1940.

New Haven, Yale Art Gallery

March 3-29—"The Art of Australia".

New York, N. Y., The Museum of Modern Art

To March 8—Americans, 1942.
To March 8—U. S. Army illustrators of Fort Custer, Mich.
To March 15—New acquisitions.
March 4—Photographs of the Civil War and the Frontier.
March 11-April 26—Children's Festival of Modern Art (Young People's Gallery).
March 18-May 3—Exhibition of paintings by Henri Rousseau.

EXHIBITIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

Providence Art Club

March 3-March 15—Exhibition of paintings by Stephen W. Macomber, Frederick R. Sisson, Gerald Mast and Dwight Burnham.
March 17-March 29—Annual water color club exhibition.

Faunce House Gallery, Brown University

To March 15—Exhibition of American Negro Art.
March 16-March 30—Exhibition of twelve small pictures from the Museum of Modern Art.

Armour Gallery

March—Exhibition of contemporary etchings.

School Gallery, Rhode Island School of Design

March 2-March 16—Exhibition by students of Mr. Antonio Cirino, Department of Education.
March 16-April 6—Exhibition by students of Mr. A. S. Rollings, Industrial Design Department.

Museum, Rhode Island School of Design

March 1 to 15—Exhibition of Art work from Cranston Public Schools
To March 15—Exhibition of flags of the ABCD powers and arts of the countries over which they wave.
To March 22—Exhibition of antique hooked rugs.
To March 25—Indian Exhibition.

John Hay Library, Brown University

March—Exhibition of Indic manuscripts.

Tilden-Thurber Gallery

March—Exhibition of silk screen prints by well known American painters.
Exhibition of new paintings by Lyonel Feininger.

CALENDAR OF ART EVENTS

Sunday, March 1

Illustrated Gallery Talk by Prof. C. A. Robinson, Jr., of Brown University on "Great Beehive Tombs at Mycenae". Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

*The Chancel and A Capella Choirs of Pawtucket Congregational Church will present Haydn's "Passion" and Rhode Island WPA Symphony Orchestra. Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.

Monday, March 2

*The Players Laboratory Group presents three one act plays. Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of a modern play. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, March 3

*The Players Laboratory Group presents three one act plays. Barker Playhouse, Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, March 4

*The Players Laboratory Group presents three one act plays. Barker Playhouse, Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, March 5

*The Players Laboratory Group presents three one act plays. Barker Playhouse, Benefit Street, 8:30 P. M.
"Youth on the Air". Sponsored by the Parents League of Providence. WPRO, 4:15 P. M. (Every Thursday).

Saturday, March 7

"Children's Story Hour". Sponsored by Providence Public Library. WPRO, 9:30 A. M. (Every Saturday).

Sunday, March 8

Gallery talk by Mr. A. Sidney Rollings. Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

*Admission charged.

*Concert by the Rhode Island WPA Symphony Orchestra, Paul L. Bauguss of Boston, conductor. Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.
The Providence "Y" Oratorio presents Haydn's "Creation". Rumford Baptist Church, 7:30 P. M.

Monday, March 9

*"Watch on the Rhine", starring Lucille Watson, Paul Lukas and Mady Christians. Metropolitan Theatre, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of a modern play. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, March 10

The Providence "Y" Singers present their annual concert. Y. M. C. A., 8:15 P. M.

Wednesday, March 11

*The Community Art Project presents Mary Starks and the Dance Workshop Group in a lecture-recital on contemporary dance as an art form demonstration. Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.

Thursday, March 12

*Annual home concert of the Brown University Glee Club. Faunce House Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, March 15

Gallery talk by Mr. Irving Cannon on "Some Masterpieces in the World of Art". Illustrated with slides. Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

*Concert by the Rhode Island WPA Symphony Orchestra. Louis Kaufmann, violinist; Edouard Caffier, conductor. Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.

Monday, March 16

Basement Studio Group: Poetry reading, "Evangeline" by Longfellow. Music and tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Sunday, March 22

Gallery talk by Miss Grace Ripley. Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

*Concert by the Rhode Island WPA Symphony Orchestra. Edouard Caffier, conductor. Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, 8:15 P. M.

Monday, March 23

*The Community Concert Association presents the Monte Carlo Ballet Russe. Metropolitan Theatre, 8:30 P. M.
Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of a modern play. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Wednesday, March 25

*The Community Art Project presents the Rhode Island WPA Symphony Orchestra, Edouard Caffier, conductor. Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.

Thursday, March 26

*Play by Sock and Buskin. Faunce House Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Friday, March 27

*Play by Sock and Buskin. Faunce House Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Saturday, March 28

*Play by Sock and Buskin. Faunce House Theatre, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, March 29

Gallery talk by Mr. John H. Benson on sculpture. Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

Monday, March 30

Basement Studio Group: Dramatic reading of "Aglavaine and Selysette" by Maeterlinck. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.