

WHAT MODERN ART MEANS IS QUESTION

MOSTLY MISUNDERSTOOD

Bulletin Strives to Explain What It's All About and Why Modern Painters Do Thus and So

"I can't understand this modern art. What does it mean? What are they trying to do?" Such expressions one hears every day apropos of the several modern art exhibitions now being shown at the Art Institute. There is the famous Birch-Bartlett gallery, which has been permanently installed in the Nickerson room; and there are the two temporary exhibitions in the East Wing galleries—the paintings by the Serbian-American artist Gjura Stojana, and the exhibition of modern paintings in the Arts Club gallery. Regarding the purpose of the various artists represented, it must be said that their work is serious, that they are striving to open up new avenues for the human mind to enjoy and relish.

One of the most noted men of the new school is Henri Matisse. His large "Still Life," pronounced a masterpiece, hangs in the Arts club exhibition. It is owned by Mrs. John Alden Carpenter of Chicago, who purchased it recently from the John Quinn collection in New York for \$10,000. She has since been offered \$17,000 for it. This information is here given to indicate that the work of these modern artists, with reputations, command high prices. Cezanne's paintings are bringing astonishingly high prices. The works of Gauguin, Rousseau, Van Gogh, and others all sell well into the thousands.

What They Mean

As to what these men are driving at in this new art, we can look up the writers who interpret them and see what they say. Of Cezanne, the most outstanding figure of them all, two of those paintings are shown in the Arts club exhibition, Sheldon Cheney says: "He ignored the world, he gave his all to art. He not only climbed above the limitation of seeing a landscape as ordinary people or ordinary painters, see it; he gave his whole life to trying to realize in color the emotion he felt at some thing he divined out of that landscape—What was this thing he was after—this new thing, yet old with El Greco, differently with Michelangelo, flamboyantly with Rubens? He called it "Realization—". Cezanne's passion was for form, form interpreted in color. He cared nothing for fine details, but massed his color in studied relation to the pattern he had in mind, hence much of his drawing or representation of form, lacks symmetrical proportions. But this is done to achieve his purpose—that of showing form and color.

Drawings Like Child

As to Matisse he was one accused of drawing like a five-year-old child. He answered: "That is what I am trying to do: I should like to recapture that freshness of vision which is characteristic of extreme youth, when all the world is new to it." Matisse can draw a human figure as well as any trained academic artist, but he

argues that this sort of thing has been done so well and so many thousands of times that the mind no longer derives a pleasure, or an emotion, in beholding it. Hence, in drawing a human figure he now leaves out the bony structure or frame work of it and paints only its shape or form as his mental vision reacts to it. So our modern painters of today are striving to express their own reactions to the things they see about them, whether it be a landscape, human figure or still life. The least we can do is to give them a hearing. Every visitor has the right to interpret these paintings in his own way and if he gets pleasure out of them that is his gain. If he sees in them only a phase of artistic madness and is driven to a better appreciation of what he would consider "sane art," then the older forms of expression has gained a friend. In any event the "modernist" is struggling to create new and different emotions, to add to our appreciation of color, form, and design. This is well worth while and our horizon is bound to be broadened thereby.

CHESTERTON TALKS TO AMERICAN CLUB

Says of All Falsehoods That About Money Worship Is Worst

"Of all lies, the worst lie is that the American worships money," Gilbert K. Chesterton, the English essayist and critic, believes.

"An American," he told the American Club at Oxford, "never talks of money in the hushed and awe-struck tone that an Englishman employs in referring to financial matters."

Though famed as a humorist, Mr. Chesterton spoke to the Americans for the most part in a serious vein. He frankly discussed the differences which exist between England and America, and the misunderstandings which so easily arise from them. And his plea was for a newer sort of intelligent understanding between Americans and Englishmen.

Much of the friction between the two countries, he said, came from the fact that Englishmen expected to find in America the same conditions to which they were accustomed in England and vice versa.

Prime Minister Stresemann says that if the League of Nations had been in existence in 1914, there would have been no World war. This is another one of those statements which it will be a little difficult to prove or disprove.



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IS IT "ARE" OR ARE IT "IS", QUESTION

Railroad Publicity Officials Have Puzzle For the Lexicographers

Is it "are" or are it "is"? The Burlington railroad wants to know. So far it's fifty-fifty.

It all started when the road sought to tell the world through paid advertising space that along its right-of-way "is" or "are" produced two-thirds the oats, more than half the corn, etc., in the United States, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

The advertising agency wrote "is" in the copy. The passenger traffic manager changed it to "are," the traffic vice-president changed it back with a caustic remark about the grammar of the passenger department, if any.

So the passenger traffic manager called the University of Chicago into conference. They told him he was right—absolutely. So he reported to the vice-president. The vice-president asked Northwestern university about it. They said he was right—absolutely.

Then while the traffic manager dashed off a letter to Harvard, the vice-president wrote to a lexicographer. One said "is," the other said "are." Then while one wrote to Princeton, the other wired Yale and asked for a hurry-up answer.

Both answers came. One said "is." The other said "are."

And there you "are"—not "is."

PLACE MANY BOOKS IN KANSAS SCHOOLS

More than 35,000 books, carefully chosen and graded, have been placed in rural school libraries in Kansas within four months through the activities of the Kansas State Reading Circle, a new department of the State Teachers' Association, with the co-operation of county superintendents and teachers of rural schools. The books are selected by a committee appointed jointly by the State department of the State Teachers' association. Supplies are obtained in carload lots, the publishers allowing the association a discount of from 10 to 50 per cent from list prices. The association furnishes books to the schools at a liberal discount.

It is said that in elections in Scotland they very seldom have any scandals about great campaign expenditures.

FLAG POLE MAKING MANHATTAN PURCHASE

Is Presented to New York As Historical Monument By Society

The little business transaction by which Peter Minuit, first governor of New York, bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for \$24 and some trifling merchandise, was formally commemorated on the three-hundredth anniversary of the occasion by the unveiling, on behalf of the people of Holland, of a flagpole in Battery Park by W. P. Montijn, Consul-General of the Netherlands in New York.

The presentation of the pole and its marble base to the city was made under the auspices of the Netherlands-American Foundation by Dr. Adriaan J. Barnouw, Queen Wilhelmina, professor at Columbia university, who was introduced by the foundation's vice-president, W. Van Doorn. Francis D. Gallatin, park commissioner, accepted it for the city. The flagpole was designed by H. A. van den Eynden of Haarlem, Holland.

The celebration was continued in the evening at the ninety-first annual dinner of the St. Nicholas Society of the City of New York at the Biltmore. Dr. John H. Finley of the New York Times, and A. Harry Moore, governor of New Jersey, were among the speakers.

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