

Religion and Art Intermingle As Each Evolves from Other

"Nobody is really interested in serious art at Christmas time," Peggy deSalle was overheard to say in her office at the Little Gallery. "People are all looking for gifts and smaller items."

Bridging the gap, the Birmingham gallery is exhibiting pre-19th century Oriental art including small bronze castings of religious significance.

No time seems more appropos than this to point up the continuous intermingling of art and religion. Their growth has been inseparable, each has evolved from the other.

"The story of the birth of Christ has inspired (some of) the world's finest art. The simple poignant beginning, adorned with the Magi and gifts and the bright Eastern Star, was irresistible to the greatest painters of the Western World who strove to tell it in the tempos and tones of their time."

THESE WORDS preface "The Christmas Story," a book of paintings by the outstanding Renaissance painters. Fra Angelico, Van Eyke, Raphael and Da Vinci found their greatest patronage in religious paintings.

Each artist learned his skill from the masters before him, adding his own contribution. Often the historic Biblical scenes were painted in the setting of the current day. Each painter added to the truth and universality of the story.

Using the Christian themes, these masters poured all their skills into their works, expressing their own views of nature and human nature within this theme. "The poetic grandeur of these pictures (in the Christmas Story) has in it a quality of eternity reflecting the everlasting hold which the Christmas story has upon the hearts of men," the preface continues.

THIS STORY has been enriched a thousandfold in the telling and his own contribution. Often the historic heritage containing the accumulated ethical goodness of mankind expressed in art—a heritage so firmly entrenched that often mod-

ern day interpretations are dismissed summarily.

To realize how vast is the body of religious art, compare Christian art to the other great religions of the world that developed more or less concurrently.

Temples, paintings, sculpture and books from all countries, these cultural creations of men express their views of life.

Many of these arts are strange to us. "There is a tendency in each of us to mock the unfamiliar in other men's faith and worship," says Paul Hutcheson in "The World's Great Religions."

OFTEN IT is a matter of stylized interpretation. Vishnu with his many arms is really no stranger than a man with wings (like an angel). Each is an attempt to make visual an idea.

Art and religion mesh so well because they are each so emotional. The colors, forms and patterns of art give expression to the heightened human feelings.

In both of these is a very mystical quality. Even though art passes through intellectual phases, there is always a strong mystical, unexplainable quality about the very best art.

THE GIFT we have given to be most grateful for is the rich heritage of religious art, the Gothic churches, Michelangelo's sculptures, Siamese bronzes, Japanese temples and Renaissance paintings, to mention a few.

Look around this Christmas season and notice how much artists and architects have contributed to your spiritual enjoyment with their works.

Charm Course Planned At Will-O-Way Theatre

Clothes don't make the man, and a pretty face doesn't make the woman, according to Emily Kay Murphy, instructor of a self-improvement course opening Monday, Jan. 13 at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre.

A model, fashion show director and commentator, Miss Murphy contends that a woman needs poise and a charming manner of speaking, along with a well-groomed appearance, to be truly attractive.

Consequently, she includes tips on speech, diction and acquiring a graceful carriage in her self-improvement course.

Improvement course, as well as grooming, make-up, hairstyling and wardrobe selection.

SHE WILL conduct sample classes for prospective teen-age and adult students Monday, Jan. 6, at the theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road near Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills.

The 10-week course, ending March 16, is offered for beginning teen-agers at 4:30 p.m. Mondays. Teen-agers who have completed an initial course may enroll for intermediate classes at 5:30 p.m. the same day.

Beginning adult classes meet at 7:30 p.m. and intermediates at 8:30 p.m. Mondays. Sample classes Jan. 6 will be held at the same hours as the actual classes.

REGISTRATION CAN be made or further information obtained by calling Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre. For those wishing to give an enrollment in the course as a Christmas gift, Will-O-Way offers a card announcing the news to the recipient.

The course can be used as the basis for a future in modeling. It includes instruction in technique of the modeling turn and pivot, plus emphasis on good posture, grace and poise.

Will-O-Way Director Celia Merrill Turner will give students an introduction to speech and diction problems as part of the course's program to cultivate pleasing vocal manners.

Other subjects covered include wise planning of a basic wardrobe, plus figure control through exercise and diet.

Make a list of those "don't need" today. Dial MI 4-1110 and a Classi Lassie will help you.



ECENTRIC PHOTO

Plan Theater Party

Committee members work on plans for the St. Thomas More Parish, Troy, benefit performances of "A Man for All Seasons" April 20 at the Fisher Theater, Detroit. The play, based on the book of the same name, tells the life of St. Thomas More. Checking seating arrangements are (from left, front row) John MacLachlan and Mrs. Corin MacGuidwin and Bud Bartlemus and Mrs. Pat Snyder.

Troy Arts Association Gives Lights to School

Twenty-four ceiling beam lights, valued at \$450, were presented as a gift to the Troy Board of Education at a ceremony Dec. 9 at the Board of Education Building in Troy.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Norman R. Barnard, president of the Troy Arts Festival Association, made the presentation to the Rev. Richard Snoad, vice president of the Troy Board of Education, and Dr. Rex Smith, superintendent of the Troy schools.

The ceiling beams were installed by members of the third annual Troy Arts Festival, under the supervision of Russell Beckwith, to light the stage in the Troy High School.

Cost of the lights represents part of the proceeds from the third annual festival held in 1963 under the leadership of Judge Barnard as festival association president and Minoru Yamasaki as festival chairman.

THIS GIFT follows the past policy of the association and the Troy Drama Workshop, cosponsors of the festival, for distribution of profits to community projects.

In the past, proceeds have been divided between the Troy Community House Fund and the Friends of the Troy Public Library. An inventory representing capital gain and valued at \$300 has become the property of the association.

This inventory includes stage flats, costumes, stationery, office equipment and decorations. It was derived from the proceeds of the third annual festival.

JUDGE BARNARD, as retiring president, has announced new officers elected to the Troy Arts

Festival Association. They are Roy Barrett, president; Mrs. James Carey, first vice president; Vincent J. McAvoy, second vice president; Mrs. Charles Reeder, executive secretary; Mrs. Leo Savoie, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Mac DeLoach, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Sprenger, assistant treasurer.

Alumni Council Hears OU Plan For Graduates

Oakland University's plan for alumni education was presented to a regional conference of the American Alumni Council recently in an invited paper delivered by Dr. Lowell Eklund, associate dean for Continuing Education of Oakland.

The unique dimension of the Oakland alumni education plan, according to Eklund, is in its potential for having the university serve the alumnus throughout his lifetime, rather than just in his years on campus.

Emphasis in the alumni education program is placed on counseling available to the alumnus at intervals throughout his career.

THE OAKLAND alumnus will be directed towards needed educational opportunities wherever they can be most conveniently acquired. A three-year pilot project in alumni education for Oakland is being supported by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

Plans call for working with the alumnus and his employer and ultimately setting up cooperative arrangements with other institutions so that educational and counseling needs can be served in the area where alumni live and work.

The regional conference of the American Alumni Council met in Chicago with representatives of more than 100 colleges and universities from 15 midwestern states in attendance.

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