

Man's Art Imitates Nature, Adler Tells Crowd

Art means more than "fine art" and what is and isn't art is a personal matter, Mortimer J. Adler, Chicago university professor of philosophy of law, told nearly 1,000 persons Tuesday in the SU ballroom.

Adler presented what he termed a cure for artiness by relating how things look from the point of view of man and the view of God.

A painting by Michaelangelo and one by a child are very close from God's point of view, he said, but from man's point of view, they are very far apart. Both views are true, he said.

Art and Nature

"Art must imitate nature or it is unintelligible," Adler emphasized. He contrasted contemporary art, which has become divorced from human form or imitation of it, with older art forms.

Art should be broader than just fine arts, Adler said, and should

include every human undertaking. He said he detested the use of the word "creation" in referring to what man made.

"Man does not create," Adler said, in the sense that he takes nothing and makes something out of it.

Only God does that, the speaker said; and this is the difference between God and man.

Two Kinds

Adler defined the two types of art as cooperative art and fully operative art.

The cooperative arts are farming, healing and teaching, he said. These artists work on living substance, helping nature do what she tends to do herself.

It is a type of imitation and therefore art, he said. The farmer, doctor and teacher act as nature acts after observing nature. The doctor heals after observing how nature heals.

In the operative arts the artist works on dead matter, making forms which nature herself would never tend to make.

There are two types of operative arts, he said, those that are ends in themselves and those which are means to ends.

Shoe and automobile making are useful operative arts, but fine arts are an end in themselves.

Fine arts are given proper names, Adler observed, and each piece of fine art has an individuality, while useful objects are not given this distinction.

Free and Enslaved

Adler differentiated between "free" and "enslaved" fine arts. "Free" art, like music has been liberated by the written symbol. The plastic arts are enslaved by matter.

Adler emphasized that all these arts are imitations; the useful arts imitating natural functions. The

shoe, for instance, copies the callosity of an unshod foot.

The fine arts also imitate human characteristics, Adler said. Aristotle's definition of fine art, he said, was that all art imitated actions of men.

Nature and Passion

Adler said that fine art imitated human nature and specifically human action and passion. This explanation would cover music, lyric poetry and the dance.

Modern art, however, does not fit the pattern and is not an imitation of anything human, he said.

He described modern art as a revolt against nature, a "pure art"—"purified of nature."

The finest art imitates man, he said, and the more human it is, the better art it is. It is when art goes to the other extremes and loses its human form entirely that it is unintelligible.

"But this does not exclude the bananas entirely," he said in reference to still life painting.

Love and Desire

Human minds need a mixture of nature and pure form, Adler said, and he felt modern art needed to be reminded of that fact. He urged a compromise between the two extremes.

Adler also discussed beauty, de-



MORTIMER ADLER
Aesthete

fining it as something which pleases upon apprehension, and need not be seen. Something beautiful must have integrity, proportion and clarity, he said.

A beautiful thing which brings pleasure satisfies a desire, desire being a wish to know, he said. Something too simple gives no pleasure and a thing too hard to understand also will not be pleasurable. When a thing is in proportion to your skill and ability to understand, it is then pleasurable.

He differentiated love and desire, stating that desire was the wish to consume but that love meant wanting to know.

Art Includes Freedom

"Art is all the things that would not exist without human intervention," according to the definition of Mortimer Adler who spoke at the coffee hour forum Tuesday afternoon in the Dads' Lounge of the SU.

The idea of freedom must also be included in one's definition of art, he continued. Since the beaver's dam is not constructed through a sense of freedom, it cannot be classified as art, he said.

"Modern" art is the result of an attempt to escape from the imitation of nature, Adler stated. Although the resultant art may be more complex than its conventional predecessors, he remarked that its very "unintelligibility" may add to the appreciation of the

viewers "It is a greater challenge to the intellect," he added.

Turning to the field of education, Adler stated his belief that the only great teacher in the history of the world was Socrates. Socrates was a teacher in the sense of a midwife, he stated. "Just as a midwife makes it easier for the laboring mother to have a child, the good teacher facilitates the birth of ideas in his students."

Adler concluded the coffee hour forum with his opinion on present motion pictures. "Movies have tried to discard entertainment in a conscious attempt to become artistic." They have now lost both qualities and have become merely dull, he declared.

Demos Hear Lawyer

The Rosenbergs received a fair trial and sentence under the law, but there is reason to doubt the appropriateness of the death penalty declared Charles Porter, Eugene attorney.

Porter spoke to Young Democrats Tuesday night on "The Legal Aspects of the Rosenberg Case." The attorney, who formerly practiced law in Boston, told the club that the Rosenbergs legally have no loophole because they are beyond a doubt guilty of espionage.

"Treason has been proved to be easy," said Porter, "but it is doubtful that the death penalty will deter future spies."

Porter felt that the responsibility for selling secrets should be shared by all of the atom spies, and held that it was fallacious to hold only the Rosenbergs responsible.

"The statement by Judge Kaufman that the spying of the Rosenbergs led to aggression in Korea was broad and has little foundation," he said. He believed that

this statement has caused some of the reaction against the harsh sentence.

Porter commended the courts in New York that tried the case as "some of the finest and fairest in the country." Judge Kaufman, he believes, acted only after long and thoughtful deliberation.

Air Force Films Open to Public

Two films will be shown by the Air Force ROTC in the main-lecture room of the Science building Friday at 3 p.m., according to Capt. M. A. Salemi, assistant professor of air science.

The first film, about the Constellation, illustrates Air Force equipment and its use. Subject of the other film is air safety. Precautions taken with flight equipment is shown in this movie.

All interested persons are invited, Capt. Salemi said.

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Ross to Speak On Architecture

Marion Ross, associate professor of architecture, will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the browsing room on "Contemporary American Architecture."

Ross will discuss the characteristics of American architecture and review the significant buildings that have been erected since 1945. He will show slides representing examples of residential, educational and commercial buildings.

This lecture is one of the features of the 1953 Festival of Contemporary Arts which is in its second week on the campus and will run through March 13. Ross is the third lecturer to speak here this week.

Hill-Billy Music On Capitol Hill

What this country needs is a national hill-billy day, according to Democratic Congressman Arthur Winstead of Mississippi.

The representative, a great lover of mountain music, asked Congress to set aside May 26 of each year in recognition of the contributions made to American music by the writers, singers and players of hill-billy music.

Award Error Made; SAM's Get Tea Set

Sigma Alpha Mu, not Alpha Tau Omega, won the silver tea set for second place in the number of dads registered for Dads Day, John Gamiles, general chairman has announced.

Ballet to Feature Dance Favorites

Selections from "Swan Lake," "The Blue Bird" and other popular ballet numbers will be featured by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at its Friday evening program at McArthur Court.

Admission to the concert, which is to be held at 8 p.m., is by student body card or Civic Music Association membership card. The CMA is the organization sponsoring the appearance of the 15 dancers.

Gounod's "Faust" is the basis for the finale number of the troupe. Entitled "Cirque de Deux," or "Circus for Two," the production is a satire on the graces of foreign ballerinas.

Friday Deadline For Billiard Team

The deadline for students to sign up for the Oregon billiards team to compete in the Inter-Collegiate Billiards tournament, March 5 through 19 in the Student Union, is Friday, according to John Shaffer, committee chairman.

There will be four teams competing in the tournament—Pocket, straight rail, three cushion and co-ed.

Students picked for the teams will receive free use of the SU pool tables and instruction from Louis Bellissimo, recreation director, Shaffer said.

Direct news wires will be kept open from the SU to Chicago to cover this national college tournament.

Students interested in working on committees should contact John Shaffer. Publicity, promotion, arrangements and contract committee members and chairmen are needed, he said.

Order of O Meets

The Order of the O will meet Thursday at noon in the Sigma Chi fraternity house for Oregon pictures.

LEO HARRIS

Who Runs the UO?

Leo A. Harris, athletic director, was appointed in 1947 to his present position.

Harris graduated from Stanford university with a bachelor of arts degree in 1926 and a master of arts degree in education administration in 1929.



At Stanford he played football, basketball, water polo and also boxed. After graduation he coached football, basketball and baseball at Fresno high school for five years. He was varsity basketball coach at Fresno State college for one year and football coach for four years.

Harris then returned to Fresno high school and served as principal for six years. After two years in the Navy and the National Guard, he was then appointed superintendent of schools at Carmel, Calif. He was at Carmel for two years before coming to the UO.

As director of athletics, Harris makes all sports schedules and is responsible for the athletic budget, all physical facilities and the purchase of all equipment. He also maintains inter-institutional relations through the PCC and NCAA.

What Do You Think of Student Government?

George Weseman, senior in Spanish, said:
"It's too remote from the students. Just a few people take part and only a few are interested in it and participate in it."