

SPEECH BY TUAN HAJI SHA'ARI TADIN, SR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S GALLERY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ON THURSDAY, 18 SEPT 75, AT 5.30 PM

It is gratifying to note that the number of high-level student works being created in schools today is increasing, and that the opportunities of exhibiting these works are also increasing.

The regularly changing exhibitions of students' art organised by the National Museum are an attempt to involve the young in cultural activities and to promote a favourable climate for the evolution of a rich and dynamic culture.

The young should be made aware of art and culture as an intrinsic and essential part of existence, a way of life, in fact, and a source of spiritual enrichment which contributes towards realizing a more humane society, and towards fashioning a distinct national character.

Art is also instrumental in adapting society to new environments and social changes.

The quickened tempo of contemporary life, brought about by the rather overwhelming pace of industrial progress and economic changes in recent years, has bred a rash of uncomfortably restless and unruly youth who are perhaps a little confused in their search for self-fulfilment and who sometimes have a frightening tendency towards destructive or wasteful employ.

A greater awareness of cultural developments and involvement in creative activities would have a stabilising influence on their restlessness and give direction to their quest for self-realisation and for a purpose in life.

The needs of the soul must not be neglected, all the more because of the stress laid upon the attainment of job qualifications.

Our educational and cultural institutions must assist the young in their search for a balance between economic and technical advancement and cultural enrichment if we are to develop a society of some refinement and compassion; that is to say, the elements of aesthetics, of life and nature, of human history and culture must not be overlooked if we want to improve the quality of life.

The Museum, with its commitment to the aspects of imagination and the poetic perspectives of life, must therefore continue to establish its educational and cultural role in the service of the people.

As a positive step towards the fulfilment of this aim the Museum has established its Young People's Gallery.

It is my pleasure now to declare open its Sixth Exhibition of School Children's Art.

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