

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation
120 Broadway
New York 5, N. Y.

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FOR RELEASE:

Noon, EDT, Wednesday, October 21, 1959

ADDRESS BY THE HON. ARTHUR S. FLEMMING,
SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE,
AT THE OPENING OF
THE SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity of representing the President and the United States Government at the formal opening of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

First of all, it is my privilege to read a letter addressed to Mr. Guggenheim from the President of the United States:

Dear Mr. Guggenheim:

I have asked Secretary Flemming to extend my greetings to those attending the formal opening of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Designed for the exhibition of contemporary paintings and sculpture, this building stands as a symbol of our free society which welcomes new expressions of the creative spirit of man. Over the coming years, I am sure the Museum will help to discover and encourage those forms which have enduring value.

It is a privilege to join in tribute to the memory of one of America's most illustrious benefactors, and to add my best wishes for the success of this project given in his name.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This Museum does stand, as the President so appropriately expressed it in the letter I have just read, as a symbol of our free society which welcomes new expressions of the creative spirit of man. An increasingly favored plank for the development of an imaginative and creative personality is one of our nation's most pressing needs. We know that creative power is that element which helps to give nations and whole cultures greatness. Results of research now in progress indicate that creative powers be transferable between and among nearly all human disciplines. Moreover, there is a growing body of opinion that the different forms of creativity where they occur in scientific inventions, music, industrial design, poetry, business management, mathematics or painting are all facets of the same basic phenomenon.

It is clear, therefore, that Solomon R. Guggenheim identified one of our most pressing needs when he established the Foundation that bears his name, "for the promotion and encouragement of art and education in art and enlightenment of the public especially in art," and it is likewise clear that those who have been charged with the responsibility of carrying out this objective have done so in an imaginative and creative manner.

This is certainly illustrated by the establishment in 1956 of the Guggenheim International Award of \$10,000 to be made every two years for the best painting selected by an International Jury. In addition, sixteen or more other awards of \$1,000 each are presented bi-annually for paintings which are chosen by juries in the United States and in other countries. The presentation of these awards not only provides a well-deserved recognition of the participants, but is also a real source of inspiration to the entire world of art.

From personal experience I know the Guggenheim Foundation has rendered a real service when it established loans which made it possible for works of art, significant contributions in the field of art, to be used for considerable

periods of time in colleges, universities, schools and galleries both here and abroad.

Surely, this great Museum is designed to make a major contribution to the achievement of the objective for which the Guggenheim Foundation was established. It will provide opportunities for research for the art scholar. It will be a source of inspiration for the art student, as well as a center for his continuing education and, above all, it will provide unparalleled opportunities for the enlightenment of the public, especially in the field of art. Surely, our nation is indebted to the Guggenheim Foundation and indebted to this great architect for providing not only the City of New York, the State of New York and our nation, but the world with a truly great educational institution.

Yes, again to quote from the President's letter, "it is a privilege to join in tribute to the memory of one of America's most illustrious benefactors," and at the same time it is certainly a privilege to pay tribute to those to whom he entrusted the achievement of his objectives -- objectives that were so well stated in the charter bringing this Foundation into existence, objectives that are going to make it possible for us as a nation and as a world to move forward in the development of creative power.