

PSYCHOLOGY

Sculpture Aids Blind

Orientation depends upon putting individual impressions together to form a meaningful whole. The art of the blind falls into either the visual or haptic types.

➤ BLIND people can be helped to find their way around by teaching them sculpture, Prof. Viktor Lowenfeld of Pennsylvania State College told the American Psychological Association in State College, Pa.

Orientation in seeing persons as well as in the blind depends, he explained, on the ability to put fragmentary impressions together to form a meaningful whole.

If you get lost as you make repeated turns in a strange city, it is because you do not retain the impression of all your various turns long enough to get a visualization or mental map of your travels.

Prof. Lowenfeld's findings come from a five-year study of the art of the blind.

When a blind artist works on modeling a head, he does not work with the head facing him as a seeing artist does. He stands behind the statue and reaches around it to model the features.

The majority of the blind do not begin, as does the seeing artist, with a single lump of clay and work it to form the various features. Instead they begin with separate parts for chin, mouth, nose, forehead and so on, and put them together without trying particularly to make them into a realistic or coherent whole.

In fact, the size of a single feature, such as the eyes, may be exaggerated with its importance to the artist. The hands of a violin player may be shown as enormous.

Most children's art is like that of this type of blind artist. Expressionism may also belong to this same type.

This type of blind artist is not concerned with the appearance of the world; he gives expression to his body feelings and his emotions rather than attempting to copy what he discerns with his touch or other senses.

Inside the mouth he will model the tongue, teeth and even the tonsils, because he knows they are there, although they are hidden by the closed mouth in the finished statue.

Other blind artists work like those with sight. They start with a single lump of clay representing the head and then form in it a cavity for the mouth, a nose, forehead, eye sockets and eyes, lids, eyebrows and wrinkles. Although they cannot see, Prof. Lowenfeld calls these the "visual" type because they work as do seeing artists.

The "haptic" type, representing about 65% of blind artists, begins with a part and not with a whole lump and often leaves a hole in the top of the head as it is formed so as to push out the eyeballs from the inside.

Prof. Lowenfeld's study of the art of the blind led to his tracing the development of art imagery. When the individual, whether blind or seeing, first begins to express himself through art, he produces a

vague total form without accurate details. The crude drawings of the cavemen were of that type.

In the second stage of development, the artist becomes aware of details and out of his urge to formulate them, makes his drawings or sculpture with geometric precision.

Later still he graduates from this stage and develops his freedom from mere duplication of observed objects and is able to express his emotional relation to the observed world. From this stage are developed the various schools of art.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

More Flying Saucers

➤ YOU can expect another rash of flying saucer reports during the next couple of months. A new book about the mysterious objects will probably induce people to work up an interest again, and some of them will be seeing things in the sky.

This latest book, *BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS*, by Frank Scully (Henry Holt and Company) tops them all. Mr. Scully's previous books bear such scientific titles as *FUN IN BED*, *MORE FUN IN BED*, *JUNIOR FUN IN BED*, and *JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED*. In his saucer book, he quotes a

mysterious and very anonymous "Dr. Gee" as saying he got right up close to four of the saucers. One of them, this nameless "Dr. Gee" is quoted as saying, flew away before he and his party could grab it.

Mr. Scully met his mysterious "Dr. Gee" through Silas Mason Newton, of Denver, Colo., an oil man who believes not only in flying saucers but also in an unconventional method of finding oil.

Mainly on the authority of this "Dr. Gee," Mr. Scully tells a fantastic science fiction tale about hundreds of flying saucers



ART OF BLIND—The distorted figure of the wood-chopper depicts the sculpture of the blind in which the individual parts of the figure are fashioned with little attention to the figure as a whole. The face which portrays pain is an example of the visual type in which the facial features are considered a part of an integral whole.

from Venus made of a strange new metal. He says the little men who make up their crews have been casing this old world for many years. He claims that "magnetic experts," again nameless, believe they fly to the earth on magnetic waves of force which enable them to travel at greater than the speed of light. He claims that the Air Force spirited away three of these flying saucers that actually landed here, together with the bodies of 34 little men, 36 to 42 inches high. He tells all this with a straight face, evidently believing his shy "Dr. Gee."

Mr. Scully tackles Albert Einstein and

all other reputable physicists who believe that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. However, he neglects to demolish the universally accepted theory that matter—presumably including flying saucers—traveling at the speed of light would have a mass that is infinite. Using the kind of thinking that is in this book, "Dr. Gee's" flying saucers, traveling on their way to the earth from Venus at greater than the speed of light, ought to be bigger than all of the universes put together, bigger than infinity.

Science News Letter, September 16, 1950

PSYCHOLOGY

Prevent War by Word War

The Russian people must be told that we are not the aggressor and that we do not want war. Short-wave radio sets must be carried behind the Iron Curtain.

► OUR best weapon to prevent war is psychological warfare, Dr. Gustav M. Gilbert, chief psychologist of the Veterans Administration Hospital at Northport, Long Island, told the meeting of the American Psychological Association, State College, Pa.

The Russian people do not want war. Show them that they are not threatened by the United States and they will have no sympathy with a war, Dr. Gilbert said. Dr. Gilbert has made a study of the psychology of dictators as prison psychologist at the Nuremberg trials where he talked daily with Goering and other Nazi leaders.

No dictatorship can withstand the wrath of the people, he stated.

Every dictatorship has rival factions. They are united only by fear and the imprisonment of their own propaganda.

The Germans were horrified at the atrocities committed by their leaders. When they learned, many committed suicide. The Russians would be horrified if they knew that their leaders are committing acts of aggression.

If, at the time of Munich, the German people had been made to see that Hitler was leading them into a disastrous war, he would have been overthrown in a matter of days.

But, so far as those behind the iron curtain are concerned, the United States is the aggressor until they learn otherwise. We should carry short-wave radio sets into territory behind the iron curtain, Dr. Gilbert advised. Just how this is to be accomplished is a problem of strategy, but it should be worked out, he indicated.

Goering foresaw our difficulties with Russia and spoke of it to Dr. Gilbert, he said.

"Just wait five years until Russia has the atomic bomb," said Goering with a smile. "I'll get a great kick out of watching how you handle that situation, looking from

heaven or that other place I am going to—the more interesting place."

Dr. Gilbert's speech was in acceptance of the Edward L. Bernays Award of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, meeting jointly with the American Psychological Association. The Bernays award is a \$1,000 U. S. Government bond given annually to the individual or group contributing the best action-related research

on the problem of reducing international tensions. It was presented to Dr. Gilbert for his recently published book on *THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DICTATORSHIP* (Ronald).

Science News Letter, September 16, 1950

ENTOMOLOGY

Dutch Elm Beetles Becoming DDT-Resistant

► BEETLES carrying the dreaded Dutch elm disease have been found to be building up an immunity to DDT and other potent insecticides in Stamford, Conn.

A new strain of the Scolytus bark beetle seems to be following the path of houseflies and mosquitoes that can become DDT-resistant, chief entomologist of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, Dr. Stanley W. Bromley, reported.

This year, in trees saturated with insecticides applied over the residue of previous seasons, more beetles than ever before survived the poisonous sprays. Tests showed also that more and more larvae of the beetles were spending the winter without harm in the bark of elms that had been sprayed with DDT.

Dutch elm disease, introduced to the United States only 20 years ago, is now a major threat to the entire American elm population. At present, high-pressure, high-saturation DDT spraying is one of the mainstays in the battle to keep the disease under control.

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KINGSIPHON—The giant aluminum siphon for ditch and flood type irrigation systems delivers approximately 320 gallons per minute with a 6-inch head. Rated 62% efficient, this siphon is easy to handle as it weighs only 13 pounds.