

The National Gallery of the American Indian is necessary because it is not just another organization to save the Indian from the encroachments of white civilization and greed - it does not duplicate the work which existing organizations are already carrying on. Neither is it just another museum to entomb in glass exhibition cases in an unsympathetic environment (or in storage rooms) relics of the past. Museums serve their purpose, but this new project, has a far wider and more vital purpose.

The National Gallery of the American Indian will cooperate with these existing Indian organizations and museums and has been assured of their cooperation. It will be a dynamic force in American cultural life, bringing to the white man a realization of the contribution the red man has to offer, for the continued enrichment of our lives. It will popularize American Indian culture, which being primitive is basic and sound, a symbol of those enduring qualities of character and philosophy with which most white men, in this age of almost insane rush, worry and conflict, have unfortunately lost contact, qualities necessary to poise and balance and enjoyment of phases of life forgotten in our industrial cities.

Methods planned by the National Gallery of the American Indian will stimulate sympathetic interest in the living Indian, in a living culture. (For the concept of the Indians as a "vanishing race" must be revised). It will stress the hitherto neglected spiritual aspect of Indian life, the aesthetic, the cultural values, rather than the narrowly intellectual and scientific approach to Indian life, and thus supplement the work of the anthropologist and the ethnologist and of the ordinary museum. There will be permanent and special exhibitions of the finest available examples of Indian arts and crafts at the gallery and on tour of schools and colleges, women's clubs, public libraries, and other educational, scientific, cultural and civic organizations,