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~~HAIR~~ IRIS CRUMP? 29

A MESSAGE TO THE BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PORTRAYING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Although we are all members of the same human family, our experience as a people has helped to make us different from other groups, just as our individual experiences make us as individuals different from one another. That differentness is a right; it makes us who and what we are, and that differentness has a right to be respected and preserved. The differentness of other Americans is recorded and preserved in the art of their group; their children and our children see it, and this fosters identification and a sense of worthwhileness. Our children and we ourselves are entitled to this same identification, respect, and sense of worthwhileness enjoyed by others. The public vehicle for helping to sustain and encourage all of this is the museum. For people alive, developing and contributing today, the foremost vehicle in the world for telling the story of cultural contribution is the Museum of Modern Art.

IS IT BEING DONE ?

We want you to find this out for yourselves. On Sunday, April 13th, at 12 Noon, 200 black and Puerto Rican students will assemble in the Auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art for a brief orientation on methods of evaluating whether or not the Museum of Modern Art is usefully fulfilling its obligation to portray the cultural contributions of black and Puerto Rican artists and to determine whether that portrayal could be better served by the establishment of a black and Puerto Rican wing at the Museum. Cultural leaders of the community will speak to the group. We urge you to support this work either by personally attending, or by encouraging others to attend, or both.

WHY A SEPARATE WING?

The Museum maintains wings for the exhibition of Dutch, Russian, Italian, Austro-Germanic, and other ethnic and national cultural contributions. Blacks and Puerto Ricans amount to more than 25 million Americans--one out of every eight. Our distinctiveness as a people is clearly recognized in the many laws, practices and customs within the American society which declared and even today declare such a difference. In short, we are different for purposes of unequal treatment, but not different for purposes of equal recognition of our cultural individuality. If we are different--and we are among the first to insist that we are--then we ought to be able to present that difference through our art and other cultural contributions in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Wing of the Museum of Modern Art.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S RIGHT TO KNOW, ENJOY AND UNDERSTAND HIS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE. HELP TO FREE BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN ART FROM THE CULTURAL GENOCIDE PRACTICED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TODAY. WITHOUT A MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WING, BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN ARTISTS WILL HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER 100 YEARS FOR FREEDOM, IF CULTURAL GENOCIDE DOES NOT IN FACT, AS IT SEEKS TO DO, WIPEOUT OUR CULTURE ENTIRELY. BRING THIS PAPER WITH YOU TO THE MUSEUM THIS SUNDAY, OR MAIL IT TO A MEMBER OF OUR COMMITTEE:

~~For more information, write to:~~
Tom Lloyd 154-02 107th Ave., Jamaica, N.Y.

STUDENTS & ARTISTS FOR A
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
WING FOR BLACK ART AT THE
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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