

I feel that the forming of the Art Workers Coalition is an important step forward and if pursued correctly will result in considerable reforms within and without the museums and other art institutions. It is particularly important that for the first time artists, writers, choreographers, filmmakers, etc. are working together towards common goals, irregardless of their individual styles or aesthetic outlooks. As one of the original supporters of Takis I have seen this movement expand and grow within a very~~xx~~ short time. The rapid growth I take to ^{be} an indication that the movement offers the very real possibility of fulfilling certain long-felt needs within the art community. I offer it my continuing support.

After this Hearing, the most important task is the formulation and adoption of a new set of demands. These new demands should then be presented to MOMA in the most dramatic way possible. Petitions must be drawn up and signed and ~~and~~ ads taken in the newspapers. A large list of signatures is crucial.

I would like the new demands to include:

1. one free day (to be financed by keeping the Museum open in the evening).
2. The appointment of a responsible person to handle any grievances arising from the Museum's dealings with artists.
3. The wishes of a living artist in regard to the display of his work owned by the Museum in any group show other than the permanent collection ^{art} be respected.
4. The payment of rental fees for works of art borrowed by the Museum for special shows.
5. A large, yearly show (possibly in one of the Armories), unjuried and open to all who wish to display their work.

It is unlikely that MOMA will accept any of our new demands. If, however, they do, AWC will end as an organization unless it is understood from the beginning that AWC fills a need much larger than mere museum reform. If the Museum accepts our demands there is the danger that AWC will become an establishment "labor union" of artists. This must be avoided. AWC must draw up a list of policies that go beyond mere museum reform.

Since it is more likely that MOMA will reject our demands again, new ways of exerting pressure must be developed. We cannot merely follow the techniques of the New Left or the students. These may offer inspiration, but as artists we are in a position to provide new examples for other groups by developing more effective methods of protest.

It must be made clear that the museums now need the artists more than the artists need them. How can we make this clear? If none of the new demands are met, I suggest we consider a boycott of the museum. The effect of this, however, is contingent upon the membership strength of AWC. Artists with works on loan to the Museum can be encouraged to withdraw their works. We can also get artists to sign statements that they will refuse to loan works without rental fees.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It might be advantageous to begin developing our own alternative structures. AWC should consider sponsoring a yearly, unjuried, show on its own.

John Perreault

(121)