

# Forum to Explore Police Relations

# Chamber Industry Group Reviews Standards Report

## ...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

One of the most remarkable developments in our present day culture is our booming art market in America. A few years ago, only a few people in each community had a real honest regard for good art—not the sort of thing that usually blares out at you in banks, wineries, and supermarket parking lots—but fine creative art.

The old stock phrase that is uttered by the "non-art" oriented individual is, "I don't know anything about art, but I know what I like." This is a monumental declaration of ignorance and has become such an unredeeming cliché that it tells so much more than the individual really intends. This phrase (I have literally heard it hundreds of times) really says that the speaker's taste is based on ignorance—what a clever way to admit it!

What this individual should do, in lieu of making such an idiotic statement, is to read the hundreds of good art books that are being printed monthly, visit the many fine galleries and museums in Southern California and begin to purchase some good art, in a modest manner. Depending on one's pocketbook, the start could be a fine reproduction of a master's work, a graphic (etching, lithograph, etc.), drawing or watercolor by a recognized artist. I don't mean "self-recognized," but recognized by galleries and museums as creative artists.

THIS EDUCATIONAL process that I have just outlined is really a necessity in today's fast pace of living. Not only is the legitimate art market booming, but the faking of modern paintings can be as lucrative to the forger as the faking of old masters. It is infinitely easier to fake a modern painting and harder to detect. As a result, underground activities in fake art are increasing at an alarming rate.

Maurice Utrillo, one of my favorites from the French School of Painting, is and has been a favorite with the forgers. His painting, "Le Lapin Agile" which hangs in the Louvre is truly a masterpiece. Al Lecoque, who was a friend of Utrillo, painted this famous cabaret with Utrillo—and this painting is now in my possession. So many people forge Utrillo's work that the French police have an "Utrillo fake painting" fire in the center of the Montmartre District of Paris.

Another favorite of the forgers is Corot. The old joke about the fake Corots is that, "of the 700 proved originals by Corot, at least 8,000 are in America." Many experts regard this 8,000 figure as ridiculously low. They estimate that in the last 25 years more than 100,000 works purporting to be by Corot have entered this country. Last week a dealer friend of mine "whispered" to me that he had just purchased a fine Corot at a fantastically low price. Live and learn!

CALIFORNIA'S fight against art swindlers is severely crippled by laws that can't tell the difference between a genuine Rembrandt and a fake Picasso. "This problem is far more serious than the public realizes," said Superior Judge Pearce Young, art patron and former vice chairman of the California Arts Commission. He would like to see a "good test case" on art fraud in the courts so that it would show up the inadequacy of the present laws.

Judge Young also said, "In recent years, nothing has been appreciated more in value than art. Over the years it is the best investment that anyone can make, better by far than blue chip stocks and gilt-edge securities." No wonder the counterfeiters are in the business—all they need is a greedy customer.

This is more reason why the average person should set about educating himself

in the field of art. At the present time, all the art buyer can rely on is the old Latin phrase, "caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware) and this is hardly any satisfaction after entering into a transaction with con men. Your only other protection is the reputation of the gallery from which you buy.

Torrance Citizens will have a chance to praise or blame their local police department on Wednesday, March 27, when the Los Angeles Council on Police and Community Relations holds a hearing. The city of Long Beach also is invited to participate in the forum designed to explore new programs in police and community relations undertaken in the two cities. Representatives of both the Long Beach and Torrance Police Departments will present

brief statements on specific program in which they are engaged. FOLLOWING these presentations, residents of the two communities will be asked to give comments. Any area resident may participate. The invitation is being extended by the Council on Police and Community Relations, not by the respective departments, to avoid the implication that community spokesmen are "hand picked."

Various points of view will be sought. THE COUNCIL recently voted to commend the Torrance Police Department for its handling of the peace demonstration parade last December. Police Chief Walter R. Koenig has received many letters from organizations, participants, and bystanders, complimenting the department on its efficiency and courtesy in policing the parade.

Torrance police officers were recognized for protecting the rights and safety of all, carrying out their duties in a calm, professional manner. **Ingot Distributor** Harvey Aluminum has announced that Aluminum States Inc., 12901 S. Yukon St., Hawthorne, is now an authorized distributor of primary aluminum foundry ingot.

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce's Industrial Development Committee will meet Tuesday to review a report on industrial standards and practices recently released by the Industrial Development Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, according to James P. Becker, committee chairman. William Huston, president of Watson Land Co. and vice chairman of the five-county

committee which published the report, will review the study with the Torrance city officials at the luncheon meeting to be held at the Indian Village Restaurant, 4020 Pacific Coast Hwy. The report, compiled from a survey of more than 100 Southern California cities, contains recommended industrial development standards concerning storm drains, sanitary and industrial waste sewers, water service and streets.

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