

MUCH DONE TO ROUSE ART CONSCIOUSNESS

by

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It is always difficult to evaluate the progress of Art within a comparatively short and transitional span of time. The true evaluation is achieved through the purifying natural process of elimination, appraisal and re-appraisal by the great revealer "TIME".

Twentyfive years is too short a time to give a correct evaluation of the period, but there can be no doubt that much has been done to stimulate and raise the appreciation of Art in India. Whether all the measures taken have justified themselves and whether we have been able to achieve all we set out to accomplish, only Time will tell. Nevertheless a number of real and laudable efforts have been made such as the establishment of the Academies, Art Councils, Galleries and Auditoriums and they will play some day their full part and become a crowded venue for a richer interchange of vital ideas and help in building up the Art consciousness as an integral and most important part in the daily life of the people.

Many fine artists have come up and many experiments in expression have been pursued in various parts of the country. The eventual major trends will take time to show and establish themselves. We can only help and encourage new talent to express itself and find its new inspiration which may answer best the ever-changing patterns of our life.

To stimulate and build up the Art life in any country is a difficult task, but to do it in a country as vast as India is a stupendous task. Art and all it implies must be made attractive to the people who can take an interest and can patronise it, as without collectors and patrons Art could never flourish properly. We must therefore create conditions which will bring about an awareness of Art and lead to the proper appreciation of this most vital creative expression. Private collectors were always a most important asset, their taste is personal and selective, the range of interest usually grows and expands with acquired knowledge and we can always remember with gratitude the private initiative of inspired individuals whose love of Art and the collections they built up have become an inspiration and precious nuclei of great national centres of culture.

A flame feeds not well unless it be first fed and patiently, steadily, surely, with a far-reaching plan before us we must implement the elements that go into the building up of a rich Art Life, always remembering there can be no magic formula, no theoretical short-cut to true success or prosperity. Like a mighty tree it must take time to grow up and the better and stronger the wood, the longer it will take to grow.

To sum up, much has been done in various directions to rouse people's interest in Art; we must now actively follow up the trails that have already been blazed and never relent in our determination of serving Art which is the infinite source of inspiration and giver of a Happier Life.

I firmly believe in the verdict of Plato who said: "From beautiful things we shall go to beautiful ideas, from beautiful ideas we shall go to a beautiful life and from a beautiful life to absolute Beauty." This is a concise formula making use of beauty (harmony) as an agent for our Regeneration, for the creation of a richer and more meaningful life and opening up new frontiers of perception.

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Message to 'The STATES' Independence Day Number 1972
25 YEARS OF FREEDOM.