

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ART CRITICS

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Amsterdam - the Hague . 2 - 10 July, 1951

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" THE SOURCES OF ABSTRACT ART AND OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN HOLLAND "

Report of Herbert Read :

The originality of Mondrian - the "new plastic consciousness" - Van Doesburg's clarification of the issues - the new outlook - beyond cubism.

Discussion of the validity of an art of pure plastic consciousness - relation to the aesthetics of architecture - the abstract and humanistic elements in architecture - the architecture of humanism - the "dehumanisation" of art.

Van Doesburg's demand for "a spiritual community", for a "new relation-ship between the artist and society" - no signs of the appearance of such a community relation ship in thirty-five years - abstract art remains a minority movement -? a pioneering elite or a fanatical sect.

Human (social) development as emergence of new phases of consciousness - such new phases only achieved under intense pressure of social necessity - such a pressure exists in modern processes of economic production (elimination of ornament, etc.) - architectural development the norm - other arts must conform or die.

A problem remains : the diversion of humanistic emotions - the permanent craving for representational symbols - the rôle of the film - the icon and the "star" (vedette) - dance and drama - Mondrian and jazz - the compensatory balance of the arts.