

San Diego, Calif.,
30 April, 1956

Editor, San Diego & Point Magazine,
423 Date Street,
San Diego 1, California

Dear Sir:

This being a so-called democracy, I suppose everyone has a right to his own opinion. Nevertheless, I think that Templeton Hinds' letter goes altogether too far.

By what right does he classify the visiting (and tax-paying) public to our art galleries as "rabble"? What is his quarrel with Whistler and Homer, other, perhaps, than that they committed the unpardonable sin of being both popular and successful?

Modern art, unfortunately, has become a cult (I almost said racket) in which you may not like or dislike a picture until you have referred to the rule-book, to be sure that you are saying the fashionable thing. It is easy and perhaps human to criticize the things which we are incapable of doing, and I would like to see any one of today's slap-stick painters produce anything even approaching the work of Winslow Homer. Today's art students are taught that they must regard "Frederick Remington" as a dirty word, and to hate the work of any British water-colorist. This is pure propaganda; it stems from a deadly fear of the British painters. If their work were ever to become popular in this country, a lot of our own so-called artists would find themselves back at work in a different kind of smock, in some Super Market.



Leah A. Franklin