



Through the Institute, founded four years ago, the Federal Government is helping preserve and foster the artistry of American Indians. Operated on the premise that self-discovery through art is at least part of the answer to the dropout problem, the Institute has gathered under its adobe rooftops an imposing roster of American Indian teachers who, themselves, have made names in the world of art, music and dance. These teachers are helping Indian and Eskimo teenagers to translate their natural artistic instincts into creative modes of expression.

The results of the Indian art education program have captured the interest of professional schools of art and sculpture, and have singled out the Institute as a fount of prize-winning art and literature. Many of its graduates have moved on, with scholarships, to further study. Some have already established their reputations among art lovers. At exhibitions around the country, the work of Institute artists, sculptors, carvers, potters and designers of textiles and jewelry are met with enthusiasm by critics and collectors. Some of their creations have found their way into interantional circles--as gifts from the President and Mrs. Johnson to visiting dignitaries.

Merchants in England, France, Germany, and Scandinavian countries have indicated an interest in handling Indian arts and crafts--and at home, the biggest department stores in several major cities have already held special exhibition sales.

The reopening in 1964 of the Interior Department's seventh-floor Art Gallery as the setting for what may have been the first major exhibition of American Indian art ever to be shown in the Nation's Capital and the pacesetter for a series of subsequent exhibitions there and in commercial galleries throughout the East.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall summed the reason why Indian art seems to have such universal appeal: "Indian artists possess the gift of sharing the timeless values of Indian culture--love of the land, a tranquil sense of harmony with nature, and the mystique of a time when their people walked here alone. From no other hands and spirits do we receive an artistic contribution more uniquely American."

X X X