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PIECE OF SCULPTURE FORMALLY PRESENTED TO UN
BY NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR UNITED STATES ART

Work by Ezio Martinelli, Overlooking Rose Garden, Is Accepted

A piece of sculpture by Ezio Martinelli was presented to the United Nations by the National Council for United States Art at a ceremony today at UN Headquarters. The sculpture, a 30x17-foot abstract in gold-and-bronze-colored anodized aluminum, has been placed on the east wall of the exterior of the General Assembly Building, overlooking the rose garden.

At the brief ceremony held at noon, Andrew W. Cordier, UN Under-Secretary for General Assembly and Related Affairs, introduced Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., Vice-President of the National Council, who presented the piece to the United Nations.

The work was accepted by the President of the General Assembly, Mongi Slim (Tunisia). Adlai E. Stevenson, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, also spoke at the ceremony.

Guests at the presentation ceremony included heads of delegations to the United Nations, permanent representatives, guests of the National Council for United States Art, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, personal guests of the artist, and UN Under Secretaries.

Mr. Cordier, introducing Mr. Houghton, said he shared with all the guests present a sense of sadness that the late Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, could not witness the presentation of the last of three pieces of sculpture which he had planned for the beautification of the Headquarters buildings.

(The piece accepted today is the third of three presented by the National Council for United States Art. Details of the three sculptures appear in Press Release HQC/137.)

Mr. Cordier thanked Mr. Houghton and the National Council for "this valued contribution."

Mr. Houghton, speaking on behalf of the President of the National Council, Roland Redmond, described the work as a "piece of abstract design conceived by its sculptor, Ezio Martinelli, in close relation to its architectural setting." He said the Council was honored by the interest the late Secretary-General had taken in this

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piece of sculpture by encouraging its commission and working closely with the sculptor for the selection of the exact spot for its location.

He concluded by stating that he hoped that this piece of sculpture might long stand, "oriented as it is to face the dawn, as a symbol of a bright future for the United Nations of the world."

Work Formally Accepted

The President of the General Assembly, Mr. Slim, accepting the work on behalf of the United Nations, expressed sincere gratitude to the National Council and its members and said that the project completed today brought to fulfillment a plan initiated by Mr. Hammarskjold during his first year as Secretary-General.

Ambassador Slim paid tribute to the three artists whose work had been presented by the National Council for United States Art: Robert Cronbach, whose sculpture is placed opposite the entrance of the Meditation Room in the General Assembly Building; Jose de Rivera, whose polished bronze bas-relief is in the Secretary-General's office on the 38th floor; and Mr. Martinelli. All were present for the ceremonies.

Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, speaking at the ceremony, said that this was a "solemn day in the headlines, a day which will be remembered for a display of violence on a scale unheard of in human history." He stated that it was all the more fitting for those who upheld the United Nations to do honor to a work of creation and hope.

Noting that Mr. Martinelli had described his work as an "aspirational" piece of sculpture, Mr. Stevenson said he was happy to have on that particular wall something that expressed aspiration. Inside that wall, he observed, there were "over 100 delegations which are more familiar with frustration and desperation than inspiration." He hoped that the "aspirational" quality of the work would "penetrate that wall to us delegates inside."

Mr. Stevenson concluded by saying that, as the beauty of the building was enriched by these gifts, "may the works of peace which are done here also be enriched with moral aspiration."

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