



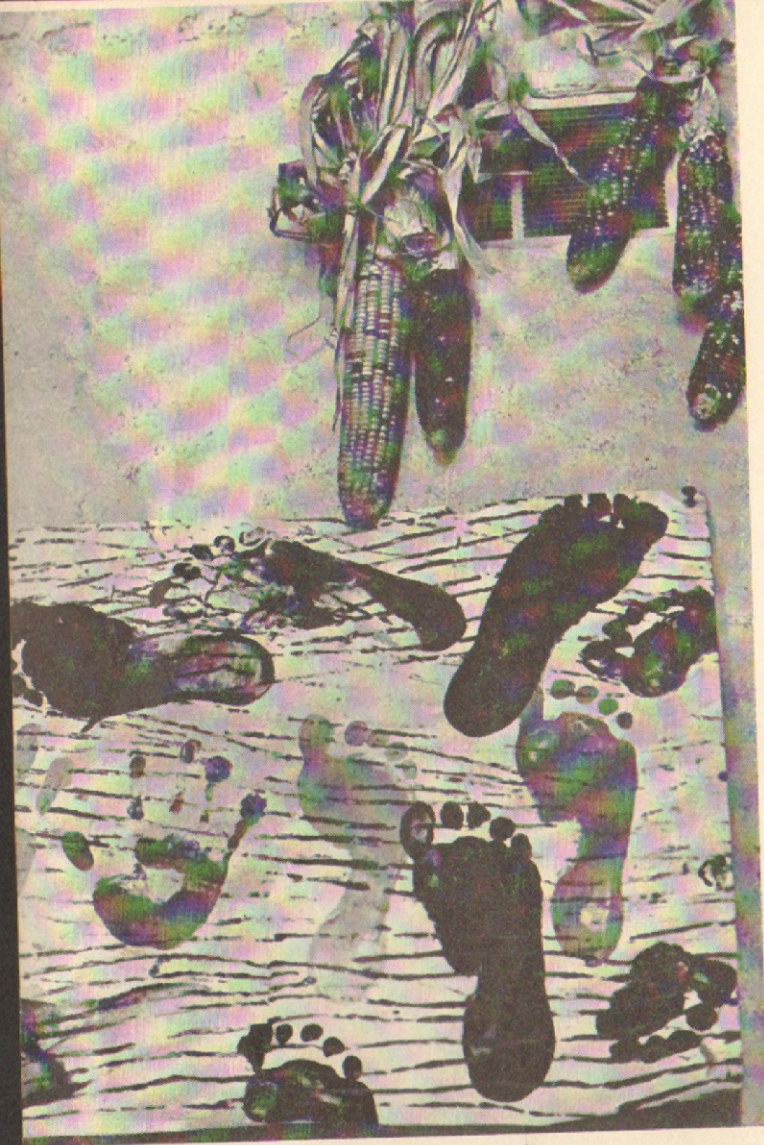
At left, Gino Conti lights the candles of his balcony bedroom. Above, in a room adjoining the bedroom, he shows a young visitor some of his primitive relics.

• In a lower portion of a house, perhaps 175 years old, on Planet Street in Providence, Rhode Island, is the studio of Gino Conti — “Penelope Court.” For the city children who have flocked to Gino’s Saturday morning art classes for the last 25 years, this studio is a little oasis. They come to draw, paint, mould, carve — and it is the art of the children which is in evidence. Gino Conti has spent his life in, as he explains it, “a return to the most basic and simple values.” He has had a studio in Paris, once lived (and painted) for two years with a Benedictine order of Monks in Italy, attended the Rhode Island School of Design, spent summers with the Hopi Indians in our Southwest and with the primitive Tarahwara Indians—cave dwellers—in Mexico. Gino considers his Saturday art classes as a fifty-fifty proposition. “I felt there is much to learn from the child—in turn, perhaps the children may have some gain in coming to me.”

by PAUL A. DARLING

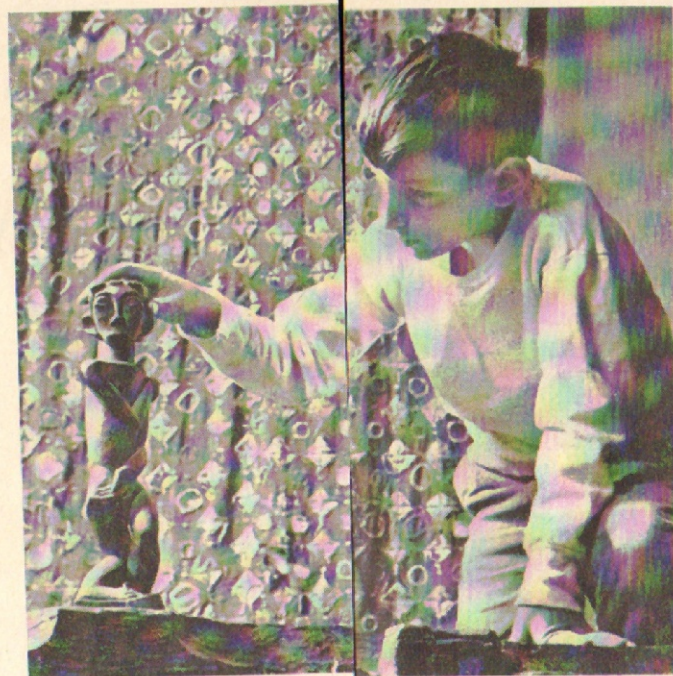
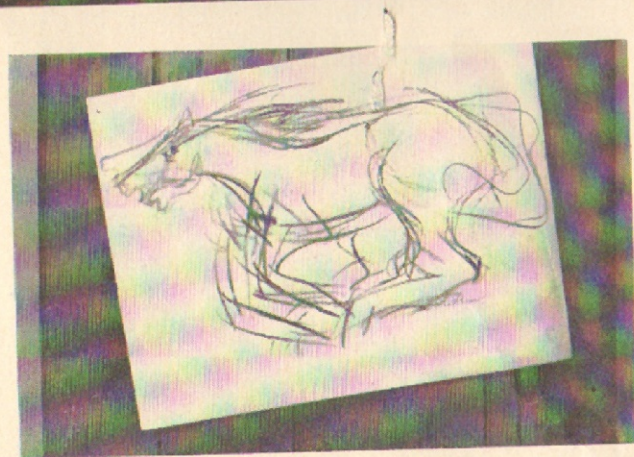


Gino Conti's Little "Oasis"



In reference to the art works of children, Gino Conti has said, "Perhaps, in a few decades hence, this puerile art may be permitted to hang along side with African primitives, or the school of Giotto or even with Picasso. Eyes of invisible fires are those of the child." Accordingly one

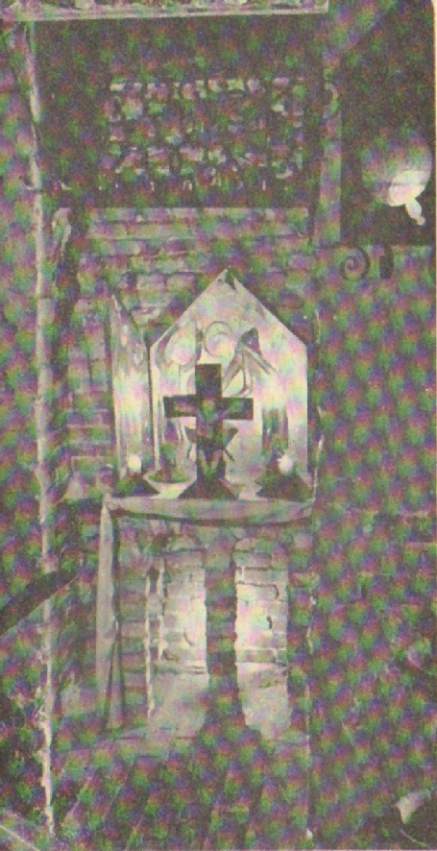
finds displayed in "Penelope Court" surprisingly spirited and sophisticated works by students. And anything is fair in primitive exploration — even footwork! (See opp. page.) Last June, R. I. College recognized Gino Conti's efforts in child education with an honorary degree.



Above: a boy caught in a moment of discovery.

Right: Sat. class on a sunny, spring morning.





A Mexican boy once told Gino that he must not be very religious since his home had no shrine. Subsequently, Gino and students built one, above, in the central studio. Here, a great variety of animals, often the subject of artistic inspiration, roam freely. "High above us, and far into the unknown, trickle the inspiration and dreams of tomorrow. We live into the future, in our children." (Gino Conti) THE END

