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U M News Service
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"Probably Barnett gives more of himself as a teacher than most artists would risk."

BEEN CHARACTERIZED

Thus has the teaching personality of Will Barnett, New York City, American painter, graphic arts leader and writer, ~~been~~ *who will* ~~characterized~~ *conduct the ninth annual U M News Workshop in painting during the second summer term beginning Monday and ending Aug. 22.* The 47-year-old artist, who at times has held four different major teaching positions in New York City, has endeared himself among students with a soft-spoken intensity tempered by a shy humility that may reflect his New England upbringing at Beverly, Mass.

His four simultaneous teaching positions were at the Art Students League, where he now continues to teach, Cooper Union, the Birch-Wathen School and the Museum of Modern Art's Veterans Art Center.

Since 1937 he has been taking honors as a printmaker. Among permanent collections in which his name is listed are the Phillips Memorial Gallery, the Philadelphia Art Gallery and the Carnegie Institute.

His teaching "text" is a treasured personal collection of color prints from which he selects to illustrate virtually every problem arising in an art class.

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Emphasizing basic structure and the "constants of art," Barnett calls upon such widely diverse artists as the Byzantines, Ingres and the early ~~American~~ *FRENCH* abstractionist Juan Gris to support his devotion to "honest structures" and his rejection of "illusionism and emotionalism."

Suave

"Some artists have thought to produce a poetic effect with a beautiful model or beautiful subjects. We on the other hand believe that we can produce it with beautiful elements, for those of the intellect are certainly the most beautiful."

Will Barnet uses this thought to frame his evaluation of abstract art in his article, "Aspects of American Abstract Painting," in the 1957 anthology, The World of Abstract Art.

Of Barnett's own work, a critic has said, "Often it is a combination of Matisse-like detail with space divisions in the Mondrian tradition that results in the 'Barnet look.'"

Another has written: "Barnet's innate sense of design is boldly crystallized. Color is aggressive and strident. . . He achieves movement incongruously, contrasting static gesture with tense interplays of color and pattern."

Barnet attributes his continuing vigor in both teaching and painting to the contributions of his own students:

"I learn from my students all the time. . . If a teacher were not replenished by the work and thinking of his best students, he could not go on. He would be burnt out."