# TO OUR YOUTH

In a world of culture and refinement there is no racial barrier. Great thinkers have made such a statement from their own experience. My firm belief is that the coming generation of Japanese ancestry should strive towards fine arts and the cultural aspects of life. To prove my first statement let me relate an interesting incident. In Mexico, Diego Rivera, world famous Mexican artist, personally invited me to exhibit my small sketches of Mexico during my stay there. This considerate feeling made me realize how beautiful oneness in art could be. In France, in Japan, and also in the United States I was most cordially invited by different art groups.

In New York Kuniyoshi is an undisputed authority in art at present, despite the fact that he is Japanese. His work is treated with respect and is appreciated by the art world and also by the general American public. His fame has been sung in various magazines and newspapers all over United States. In silence, Kuniyoshi has done much as an ambassador of good will. Perhaps his work should be considered no less important than the official ambassadors that are sent to various countries.

Looking back I find that newly-discovered talents among the younger generation have made their debut, but their names failed to make a second appearance. The reason for this fact is obvious. There is a popular belief that artists are not financially blessed. Either the parents or the young artists themselves have taken the supposed plight of artists too seriously. Therefore their advancement has to be nipped at the bud. The individual artist should have firm conviction to make something of his talent instead of allowing little difficulties to discourage him.

A pine tree growing on a windy coast becomes firm and sturdy. Then another plant sheltered with special care given to it becomes a weak and colorless one. Such a fact can apply to our lives. No amount of obstacles should move a true artist from his conviction. Therefore diligence and perseverence are necessary. The reward will be manifold. In my small way I will do my utmost in leading youth who have interest in art. The young artists of tomorrow will not only be confined to just their localities, but theirs will be world wide sphere of activity. - - Henry Sugimoto

(Printed in the "Vignette"-Henry Sugimoto was an evacuee interned at Fresno and well known Japanese American artist)