



Art Gallery

Corner Durham and Armagh Streets

PO Box 772

Christchurch 1

Telephone 42-261

### EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

TOWN AND COUNTRY ART CLUB — 15th May to 30th May.

SCHOOL OF ART EXHIBITION—14th June to 25th June.

CHRISTCHURCH STAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS EXHIBITION — 7th August to 20th August.

LOAN EXHIBITION — 10th July to 25th July.

SPRING EXHIBITION — (for Associate Working Members) 1st September to 15th September.

COMBINED ONE-MAN-SHOWS — 1st October to 15th October.

GROUP EXHIBITION — 30th October to 14th November.

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CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS

# news

NUMBER ONE, MAY, 1965.

This is the first edition of our revised and enlarged Newsletter, now called NEWS containing advertising material from business houses who have responded to our invitation to assist the Society's rebuilding project in this manner. We are extremely grateful for this support and the firms concerned can, in their turn, feel they are making a concrete contribution to a cultural re-organisation in the city.

### INVITATION

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY ART CLUB extends an open invitation to members of the Canterbury Society of Arts to attend the opening of their exhibition at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 15th May in the DURHAM STREET GALLERY.

### FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

A gathering of artists was held in the gallery on the Friday evening before the opening of the Annual Autumn Exhibition and a number of matters of interest were discussed. Several excellent ideas put forward were then discussed at the subsequent meeting of the Council. Among the suggestions were the following:—

**The establishment of a library of books and magazines.**

The Council considers that until the new gallery is built the administration of this would be difficult, but the matter will be discussed again at a meeting of the Council in August.

**A loan exhibition of paintings from members' homes** was approved. Included with this newsletter are further details.

**The establishment of a travelling grant.** This is being investigated and is approved.

**The loan of the permanent collection** after it has been completely catalogued will be reconsidered at a later meeting of the Council.

The Council thanks Mrs Mollie Atkins, Mrs Isabel Hall and Dr John Gosset for recently making important suggestions regarding future activities for the Society. Their action is much appreciated. The Council will always gladly welcome suggestions of members.



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### ANNUAL AUTUMN EXHIBITION — 1965

The Council gratefully thanks all who submitted work. 348 paintings were submitted and 199 were hung. Also exhibited were 11 sculptures and 31 pieces of pottery. Total sales, £810 exceeded last years appreciably and the Council is delighted with this response to the appeal to support N.Z. Artists.

We are grateful to Professor H. J. Simpson of the School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, for the following thoughtful comments on this and future Autumn Exhibitions. Professor Simpson writes:

I would like to raise two points which may become important when the Society moves into its new Gallery. The exhibition, the most important event in the Society's year, stems from the nineteenth century traditions of European Academies and their attempts to maintain the links between artist and patron in the face of population explosion, Industrial Revolution, and the rise of mass media. Exhibitions in Paris and London were vast 'general marts', a Smithfield or Covent Garden in painting, where artists were assured of buyers who in turn felt that the seal of approval had been placed on all works exhibited. Artists vied with each other for wall space, and this encouraged the public to believe standards were high, because many works were rejected.

But now, the situation has changed quite dramatically, important works of important artists rarely appear in these gargantuan exhibitions, which today pose many problems of gallery design. Our Annual Autumn Exhibition results in a glut, and this can cause a dearth for the remainder of the year. There is too little space in the existing gallery to deal adequately with an exhibition of over three hundred works, and yet there are other periods when the gallery is empty. But it is a question of adapting rather than abolishing the exhibition.

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It seems to me that future annual exhibitions could be divided into parts, (like Henry the Fourth) a tasteful and fully representative display lasting for say two weeks could be followed by Part 2 which in turn could have its own opening, be fully representative of artists and all types of work. The increased space surrounding each work could avoid the effect of a cheap store, it could assist the hanging committee by allowing them considerably more freedom in selecting and exhibiting works. It would produce exhibitions of from sixty to one hundred works and this is about as many as anyone can really deal with at one time. The second point is the desirability, (perhaps the necessity) of the Council positively encouraging some artists to exhibit. There are many ways of doing this, some of which have been tried and have worked reasonably well in the past, but in my view it is no longer sufficient merely to ask artists if they would like to submit works for exhibition; some practical and positive inducement, some very real advantage to the artists to exhibit at the Society's Gallery rather than through a dealer, must be realistically presented.

As to the quality of the last exhibition, I dealt with this in a review for "The Press" and there is little I wish to add, but if any member felt I dealt harshly or unfairly with it (or with any exhibition in the future) I would be most grateful if they will let me know and help me by sharing their viewpoint, and discussing the matter with me.

John Simpson.  
21st April, '65.

### ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

The Christchurch City Council will show from **April 30th to May 16th** in the Robert McDougall Art Gallery:—

**The James A Michener Foundation Collection of 40 Contemporary Paintings** from the Allentown Art Museum, Pennsylvania. Mr Michener is the well known author of "South Pacific".

The British Council's **English Artist Potters' Exhibition** from **June 6th to June 20th.**

### University of Canterbury — Extension Studies—

"APPRECIATION OF ARCHITECTURE" Five weekly lectures by well known architects will commence on Tuesday, June 1st at 8 p.m. in Room G1, first entrance in Worcester Street. Fee £1 is payable at the first lecture. The lecturers are Messrs Paul Pascoe, P. J. Beaven, A. L. Mitchener, D. E. Donnithorne and F. M. Warren. The aim is to develop appreciation of good architecture as a source of permanent pleasure and suitable background for civilised living.

"DESIGN IN THE HOME" An eight lecture course, illustrated with slides. Fee £1 on application to the University. Closing date 25th May. Lecturer, Miss R. Robins, B.H.Sc.



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**NEW MEMBERS:** The following new members have joined the Society since the last Newsletter was issued.

Dr C. G. Anderson	Mrs M. P. Noonan
Mrs Nola Barron	Mrs H. Parkhouse
Mr David S. Brokenshire	Mr D. Parsonson
Mr J. C. Brasell	Mrs N. M. Phillips
Miss Davies	Mrs Peb Simmons
Mr Timothy G. Gates	Miss Juliet Shand
Mrs N. A. Jacobs	Mrs Tapley
Miss P. S. Manning	Mr Tom Taylor
Mr G. C. L. M. Mather	Mrs Roie Thorpe
Mr John Milligan	Mr Warren Tippett
Miss Mary Moorhouse	Mr Michael Trumic
Mrs Dorothy Nicoll	Mrs F. G. Walker

### NEW ARTIST WORKING MEMBERS

We are very pleased to say that the following have recently been admitted as working members of the Society:—

Miss C. Wightman	Miss Audrey Durant
Miss Pauline Knights	Mrs D. Arscott (Downie)
Mrs Barbara Fowler	Mrs Joanna J. Thomas
Mrs Lily Lewis	Mr C. T. Williams (wood
Mrs Doris Hunt	sculpture)

We thank all those who submitted their work but, on this occasion, were not admitted. The Selection Committee has a difficult task but it is carried out carefully and sincerely. It is hoped that those who were not successful will submit their work again and will exhibit in the Spring Exhibition (September 1st—15th) which is for Associate Working Members. Please don't be discouraged.

### "CONTEMPORARY PAINTING IN N.Z."

This Exhibition in London has been visited by the Queen Mother. It was organised by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and was on view at the Commonwealth Institute. A review in the London "Times" especially mentions works of M. T. Woollaston, Rita Angus, Don Binney, John Drawbridge and Colin McCahon all of whom have exhibited in our Gallery. The art reviewer of the London Daily Telegraph, Terence Mullaly wrote: "Two of the artists seem to me exceptional, Suzanne Goldberg and W. A. Sutton". Woollaston and Sutton are working members of our Society.



### NEW GALLERY SITE

The search for a site has meant much work for Council Members, Mr Laidlaw and the Secretary Mrs Brooke. After very full discussion the Council decided that a site in the Central portion of the City is preferable to any other and a Committee of the Council then met the Provincial Council Chambers Board to enquire if a river bank site adjacent to the Old Council Chambers could be made available on terms acceptable to the Society. We were informed that this could not be encouraged and also many practical difficulties would arise. Consequently after eliminating various possibilities the Council is now considering two sites in the Central area and it is hoped that finality will be reached quite soon. The Council appreciates the need to avoid delay as much as possible.

### INFORMATION FOR WORKING MEMBERS

The **Auckland Society of Arts** is holding a large exhibition in the Skyroom, Milne and Choyce Building from 5th July to 16th July. Entries are invited from Working Members of this Society and a bulk entry will be sent by us — 10/- per painting. Closing date in the gallery for entries Thursday, 10th June, 4 p.m.

The **Otago Art Society** will hold their Annual Exhibition from 29th May until 18th June. A bulk entry will be sent. Closing date in the gallery Thursday, 13th May, 4 p.m. 10/- per painting. The **Ashburton Society of Arts** holds their first Annual Exhibition from 28th June to 3rd July. A bulk entry will be sent, 5/- per painting. Closing date in this gallery Tuesday, 15th June, 4 p.m.

Society's **SILVER MEDAL AWARD:** On the occasion of the opening of the 85th Annual Autumn Exhibition the President of the Society Mr S. E. Mair presented the silver medal to Sir James Hay, O.B.E. The medal is given for meritorious services to art and Sir James was honoured by the Society as a gesture of appreciation of the Hay Art Prize.

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**LOAN EXHIBITION  
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The Association of N.Z. Art Societies of which we are a member has been granted the above sum by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. It is to be spent before the end of this year by member Societies for special projects only.

**POTTERS**

With the help of the Canterbury Potters Association we have now formed a "Potters Group" within our Working Membership—some are new members of the Society and others are members who have transferred to this group. They are:—Mrs Nola Barron, Mr David Brokenshire, Miss Yvonne Rust, Miss Hazel McCaughern, Mrs Roie Thorpe, Mr Warren Tippett and Mr Michael Trumic.

Pottery Members exhibited for the first time in the recent Annual Autumn Exhibition and nearly all exhibits were quickly sold. The Council welcomes this new activity.

**PERMANENT COLLECTION**

Examples from the Society's Permanent Collection have been hung in the North Gallery recently and formed an impressive and interesting group. Paintings in this collection, accumulated over many years are most interesting and it is the intention of the Council to hang them as frequently as possible. In the New Gallery we expect to provide space for continuous hanging of selections from this Collection.

**NEWS**

Members are invited to send to the Secretary any news of general interest and any comment. Suggestions are particularly welcome. Use a nom-de-plume if you wish but we won't publish a letter if you request we do not do so.

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