

About Art and Artists

Preview to Be Held Tonight for 'Magic of Flowers' Paintings at Wildenstein's

AFTER several hectic weeks in which the number of local art exhibitions ran from forty to fifty, the present week tapers off to half such a flood stage.

Of outstanding interest is the springtime exhibition for the benefit of the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association at the Wildenstein Galleries, "The Magic of Flowers." This is a loan show of flower paintings from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, with selected examples from public and private collections.

Famous paintings by European and American artists are included among the eighty works assembled. There will be a gala invitation preview (admission \$7.50) this evening at 9 o'clock and the exhibition will be open to the public, beginning tomorrow, until May 15 (admission 50 cents).

Exhibitions opening today include paintings by Victor Brauner at the Hugo Gallery, by William Chaiken at Contemporary Arts, by Chris Anderson at Wellons, by David Levine at the Davis Gallery, by Camille Hillaire at Galerie Moderne, which is also showing color lithographs by Georges Dayez, and three group shows. These are paintings by sixteen French artists at Perls, by nineteenth and twentieth century Americans at Hartert and by young Americans at the Loft Gallery.

Paintings of Israel by William Wachtel are at the Tribune Subway Art Gallery.

Tomorrow paintings by Frans Kline will be shown at the Egan Gallery and by Fairfield Porter at de Nagy. The Karnig Gallery will open a show titled "Paris in New York," with paintings by French contemporaries.

On Thursday Cooper Union will open a large exhibition of historic and modern enamels. A collection of contemporary paintings acquired by the Museum Purchase Fund for eventual distribution to art institutions will be shown at Hunter College in the Playhouse Lobby. Paintings by Paul Ortlip will go on view in the gallery at the Great Northern Hotel.

Current shows in Greenwich Village are mosaics by Max Spivak at the New School for Social Research, sculpture and graphics at the Tanager, paintings by Arduino at the Town Gallery, paintings and drawings by Allan Kaprow at the Hansa, paintings by Florence L. Barlow at the Eighth Street Gallery and water-colors by Robert A. Parker at the RoKo.

It has been decided to extend the "Selection III" at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum to May 5. Paintings by Ward Jackson at the Copain Restaurant will continue to be shown through April 17.

Murray Jones' Mexican Themes Shown

IN semi-abstract paintings by Murray Jones, at Contemporary Arts, Mexican themes are seen at a far remove. Landscape and buildings are disintegrated into a conglomeration of flinty shapes that bristle together in emblematic images. Subject matter and atmosphere are pretty well lost in this process, but the pictures have a complex constructive logic of their own. Color is dark and sullen and the pictures have, on the whole, a forbidding air.

Vava Sarkis' landscapes and figures at the Schoneman Galleries take after French models, though they have an individual exoticism, partly in the sweet liquid color and partly in the

sensuous swooning mood that is generally pervasive in them. They may appear too saccharine for puritan taste but they are bound to please those who like their art strongly injected with discreet sentimentality.

Hondius titles his exhibition of figure paintings at the John Myers Gallery "In the World of Make Believe," presumably because he is concerned with circus subjects, puppet shows and children masked for Halloween, all of which subjects he is able to make entertaining and convincing. Paint is applied with skill, being built up into solid forms very much in the manner of Rouault who, indeed, is the chief influence here.

S. P.