

Aileen Meagher fascinating & frustrating

AILEEN MEAGHER EXHIBIT

By MICHAEL FRIESAN

An exhibition of the works of Halifax artist Aileen Meagher opened last week at the Art Center Studio and Gallery (Memorial Hall). The exhibition, entitled "Aileen Meagher: A Retrospective" consists of fifty-seven works from a forty year span between 1945 and 1985. This extended time period makes the exhibition both fascinating and frustrating. The fascination comes from the wide variety of styles and mediums used by Meagher over this four decade time span. And yet this same variety also makes the exhibition virtually impossible to consider as an artistic whole. When one is considering the collected works, it is difficult to believe that one single artist was responsible for all of them. For this reason, this review will limit itself to a general discussion upon the use of colour, followed by the specific consideration of several works.

Aileen Meagher's use of colour is best described as unflinching and unpredictable. In "Boys on the Beach at Savii", colour functions to impart a sense of depth of field. The unhurried transition from beach to reef to sky to cloud to infinity gives a real sense of limitless depth. A completely different approach is found in "Flowers of Sri Lanka." In this piece, the component colours reach out and grab the attention of the viewer. Yet at the same time, the vivid hues play off of one another in a subtle contrapuntal fugue of melodic complexity. But then "Ribera de Curteadores" is another case entirely. The uncertain pastels used in this piece lend to the whole scene an unsettling sense of faded grandeur, crippled elegance, and ill-concealed decay.

The Brunswickan will be holding an election for the position of Editor-in-Chief on Friday, November 7 at 12:30 pm, Room 35 (SUB). All staff members are urged to attend.

"Flowers of Sri Lanka" is a gorgeous, great, sprawling assault which, at first glance, leaves the viewer somewhat bewildered. The exuberant splash of colours playfully forces itself upon the viewer, whose initial response may be to dismiss the piece as garish. Closer inspection, however, reveals an unexpected delicacy of touch. Far from being crude or unsophisticated, this piece captures the concept of "flowers" without exaggera-

tion or subjective distortion. The attentive viewer will be captured by the vast range of detail present. No flower lies in the shadow of another - each has unique properties and beauties that Meagher expresses with the utmost of delicacy. Close inspection of the work reveals a super-realistic vision which permits Meagher to show the viewer a reality which extends far beyond the world of surface appearances.

"Boys on the Beach at Savii" is a striking visualization of the concept of "isolation." On the surface, it is simply a depiction of a group of naked boys on and around a rock island situated just off a beach. Yet the use of colours and the way that they move from one part of the scene to the next gives the work a powerful ability to arouse in the viewer a strange feeling of forgotten days and lost youth. The way in which the colours effortlessly wash

from sand to reef, from reef to sea, from sea to sky to clouds and infinity imparts a sense of dreamlike unreality, suggesting the idyllic childhood we all want to believe that we had.

"Aileen Meagher: A Retrospective" was produced by Gemey Kelly, and is touring under the auspices of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dalhousie University. It will be at the Art Center until November 25th.

The Woodshed

Playing this weekend at the Woodshed: Friday Oct 31st - Opposites Attract, playing their own blend of folk and original music; and Saturday November 1st Jordie Haley plays jazz. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Performance starts at 8:30.

TNB YOUNG COMPANY AUDITIONING MALE BILINGUAL ACTORS

Are you a male, bilingual performing artist? If you are, Theatre New Brunswick's Young Company is looking for you. Auditions will be held on November 8 at the Playhouse in Fredericton for the 1986-87 tour of the Atlantic region, so start preparations today!

The Young Company is one of the longest running professional theatre companies for young audiences in Canada. From January to May it tours the Atlantic region performing for young people in the elementary and junior and senior high schools.

For its twelfth exciting season it is offering PEACEMAKER, by David Holman and HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE by Robert Morgan for elementary and high schools respectively.

Prospective actors must be available from December 8 for rehearsals and must be free of commitments to the middle of May. A short dramatic monologue and a musical piece in English or French will be required for the audition.

Artistic Director, Janet Amos, who will be conducting the auditions, said, "we're looking for a really special male bilingual actor and we want to encourage New Brunswick artists to come and audition for us."

For more information, please phone 458-8345 or toll-free in New Brunswick 1-800-442-9779.

The position of entertainment editor for The Brunswickan is now open. Applications are to be

sent to

The Bruns offices.

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Caribbean Supper: from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Menu includes: Rice Palau, banana salad curried chicken and beef. Dessert, Coconut Ice Cream

Reggae Pub from 9:00 - 1:00 a.m.

VENUE: SUB BALLROOM

Supper tickets available from caribbean circle members, SUB information office and International Student Advisors Office at a price of \$7.00.

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