



Pictures show "superiority of nature over man."

Photo Bruce Gardner

Pictures of rural life

**British Watercolours
McMullen Gallery
During December**

review by June Chua

Wild seas, solitary beaches and tranquil landscapes dominate the British Watercolour Exhibition at McMullen Gallery. A majority of the paintings focus on the rural life and the seaports of England. Occasionally, there is the strikingly distinct picture.

The pastoral scenes are a blend of mellow colours: dusky yellows, greyish blues, and a myriad greens and browns. These types of paintings represent an idealized view of quaint villages and simple lifestyles. After a while, they begin to meld into one brownish blur.

Other paintings seem to pit man against the environment and thus, the immensity of nature. Many feature minute human figures against towering mountain ranges, towering cliffs or battling the brutal sea. They convey the power and superiority of nature over man.

In particular, one captured the danger and exhilaration of the moment. It showed gigantic waves pummeling the rocky shore; while on the extreme left-hand corner, a group of

puny figures attempt to pull something onto the mainland. As one moves closer, the waves take on a mesmerizing effect: one can actually get a sense of the savage fury of the sea.

There are a few paintings that punctuate this collection with interesting tones. For instance, one pictured an attic cloaked in darkness, with the exception of light radiating through one small window. Rich shades of brown give definition to the bric-a-brac in the room. Upon closer inspection, one's eyes are drawn from left to right by the direction of the sunlight. This allows the observer to see the many tiny details and feel the disjointedness of the queer angles the painter has cleverly masked.

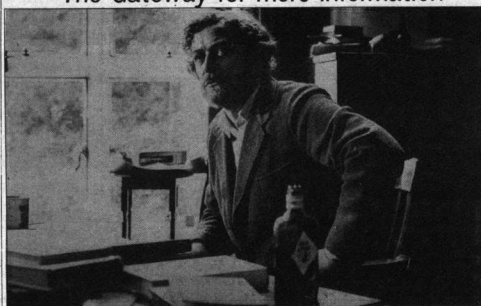
Due to the 'smudge' effect of the brush strokes, the watercolours lend fluidity and give the impression of hazy images. In this way, the painting invites the viewer to define the shapes for himself. In contrast, there are various boldly vivid pictures that attract and please the eye.

Despite several tedious landscapes, it is worth dropping by to see some of the more unique paintings. McMullen Gallery is located on the main floor of the University Health Sciences Centre.

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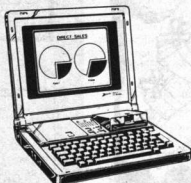


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