be seemingly non-intellectual, but the manipulation of them on the surface of the canvas is directed by a keen visual mind.

Meredith has remained a loner. In the days when Isaacs' Allstars made the nearby Pilot Tavern the scene of endless talk and argument about art, Meredith continued to live in Brampton, staying there till 1964. He now lives completely as an artist, making his home in his studio, a large single room over a store on Toronto's Spadina Avenue, near the garment district. Quiet and shy, hesitant in articulating his ideas, he has never taught and never been active in the art associations that continually mushroom. Although he lives a relatively isolated life, Meredith has no sense of rejection, having built up over the past eight years a loyal following of people who have consistently appreciated and purchased his work. He sees this rather lonely life style and his singlemindedness as accidental and not self-imposed. Asked about the future, he says in his gentle way that he is quite content with things as they are.

He does, however, talk about possible changes in style, towards a more open and free compositional structure. This is evident in comparing *Untitled, 1971* (ill. p. 152) to *Seeker*, (ill. p. 150), which was painted in 1966.

The current trend towards artistic and intellectual nationalism doesn't interest John Meredith, perhaps because he is a universal rather than a national or international painter; his work is as accessible to a Laplander as to a Vancouverite.

Conversely, however, he feels that national environment has had a part in shaping his work, though he is unable to explain it further than that. He simply believes that he would be a different kind of artist, in some undefined way, if he lived in France rather than in Canada.

John Meredith continues to be one of this country's most intriguing and idiosyncratic young painters; art critics and writers from all over the world are invariably forced to turn in on the work itself, leaving both them and the artist to wonder what it's all about.