

ISKOWITZ, Gershon (Cont'd)

to water colour during his shockingly tragic early years as an artist when he secretly painted episodes of horror from his experiences at Buchenwald and Auschwitz. Water Colour is evidently still his premier mode of expression influencing and dominating his use of the other media. One can observe a steady development of technique over the years. His most recent work emerges as the logical outcome of his early experiments painting in transparent layers of water colour; in subject matter there is a sharp and understandable break with the past . . . Although the artist lets the technique he uses create his images, he is obviously working with memories of the northern landscape in mind. In one blue-green study, the irregular edge formed by the moist blending of two layers of colour suggests the jagged line formed by pine trees outlined against the horizon at dusk." She also commented on his drawings as follows. "The artist covers the surface of the paper with little marks, seemingly distributed at random, like strewn leaves - now concentrated, now spread out. These marks gradually coalesce into the time-honoured elements of the Canadian countryside - fields with ploughed furrows, conical pine trees, and so on . . . one cannot help wondering whether he will continue his successful preoccupation with landscape or, as one or two examples of his present work seem to hint, he will carry forward and assimilate an earlier interest in the human figure and the expression of strong emotions." In 1966 an exhibition of his work was held at Gallery Moos, Yorkville, Toronto, when Harry Malcolmson⁹ provided an excellent text for his catalogue. Gershon Iskowitz is a member of the Canadian Society of Graphic Art (1956) and exhibited his canvas "Autumn Images" at the Sixth Biennial Exhibition of Canadian Painting, 1965.

References:

¹ National Gallery of Canada Information Form rec'd July 2, 1958

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ *Saturday Night*, Tor., Ont., March, 1966 "From The Ranks Of Death" by Kildare Dobbs, P. 28

⁵ see ¹

⁶ see ⁴, P. 28

⁷ see ⁴ (P. 29-31)

⁸ *Canadian Art*, Vol. 20, No. 6, Art Reviews P. 318 "Gershon Iskowitz at the International Cinema, Toronto" by Luba Eleen

⁹ *Gershon Iskowitz* by Harry Malcolmson, Gallery Moos Ltd., Tor., Feb. 17 to March 2, 1966 see also

Canadian Art, Vol. 21, No. 2 "How 20 Canadians Draw the Line" by Arnold Rockman, P. 85

Ibid, Vol. 23, No. 2 "Canadian Art Today" by Dorothy Cameron P. 59, 52