

HIGH STANDARD ART SHOW IN STURT PARK

By May Harding

Broken Hill artists showed about 200 pictures, many of which were of a standard comparable with works currently shown in capital cities, in Sturt Park for the second open air exhibition arranged by the Willyama Art Society on Sunday.

Kevin "Pro" Hart, modern of the moderns, who is seeking a form of his own that may well place him among the big names in Australian art, showed a number of large paintings of quality. Outstanding were his "Crucifixion" and "Woman with Two Children" and a mining study. In "Woman with a Banana", "The Drover" (pictured), "The Bikini", "The Shearer" and "The Drinkers" he expresses his subjects in entirely different but satisfactory ways. Besides his local fame as artist and cartoonist Hart consistently exhibited (and been highly commended) in Australia-wide exhibitions during the year.

Venture

John Gregory has ventured into large abstracts. In his well presented display, "Ned Kelly", consisting mostly of rectangular shapes in cool colors on a warm ground, and "Drum Kits" — yellow forms on rich stained glass effect ground, were successful. He included landscapes in oils and watercolors at which he is competent. Two "experiments" in gouache, chalk and colored inks were outstanding. These semi-abstracts, "Rocks at Sunrise" and "Foggy Night, Round Hill" are reminiscent of masterly examples of graphic art seen at the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Having put Broken Hill art on the map with his shows in Melbourne and Sydney and representation in the National Gallery of New South Wales, Sam Byrne continues to paint Silver City panoramas, mining, churches and the outback in his delightful manner.

His 32 paintings included recent works of Mootwingee, Mootooroo and Umberumberka with particularly interesting rock textures — worthy "Grandpa Moses of the Mulga".

Susan White, a talented and serious young artist studying in Sydney, has

many admirers for her paintings. The strongly painted portrait of Mr. H. L. C. Cotton was outstanding and the still life of kitchen utensils called for praise. Two local landscapes showed well observed rocks, earth and vegetation and exquisitely painted flower studies — Sturt pea and Swainsona spray-in-watercolors completed a fine exhibit. Alan Cumpston, painting in the same style showed pictures of Mary Kathleen and Pinnacles that give promise.

Architectural influence is strong in F. C. Pratt's watercolors and drawings. He showed pictures of Argent street, the Royal Flying Doctor Base" and "Scene from Ward 308 Broken Hill and District Hospital." The view of Argent street from the post office was hung in Sydney's Royal Easter Show. One of the most enthusiastic workers for the exhibition was Mr. Pratt's sister, Mrs. J. England who recently arrived from England. She lent three interesting canvasses acquired in the voyage from artists who boarded the ship and put on an art show in the lounge. The charming picture of an old lady is from Sorrento and the scene with Mt. Vesuvius and the brilliant sunset at sea are from Naples.

Cheerful

Mrs. England said the glowing salmon pink in the seascape will cheer her in England's fogs.

We hope that memories of Broken Hill's sunshine and the trip to Tibooburra will also held.

"Corn" Vandenberg showed a large collection of drawings, landscapes and seascapes. His drawings in sepia and black ink have the quality of old prints and studies of waves have vitality. A weeping Madonna and black and white cows in a well designed composition were admired.

Eileen Lennox, in a number of small studies, shows her interest in the bush and flowers. "Outback Road with Sturt Peas" appeals and in "Pansies" the velvety texture of the flowers is captured. "The Jacaranda Tree" was inspired by the flowering of these lovely trees lately.

Humanistic interest emerged from the exhibition of works by May Harding as the expressions in "Woman With Quinces", "Child With Flowers", the nude with violin and the head of Ruth in "Nude With Peaches" seemed to get their message over. Landscapes, abstracts and drawings were included.

Hugh Schulz showed work of promise, particularly the droving and aboriginal studies. He could develop along these lines.

Symbolic

Richard Eatock, a newcomer among local painters, showed pictures of Stanwell Park, the Blue Mountains and a symbolic (and topical) Australian flood. Mr. Eatock is working at Bilpa Station and will have some interesting work for future exhibitions.

Young artist Diane Campbell showed four pictures of which "Radium Hill Mine" and "Old Tree, Pinnacles" were best. Myra Webb contributed a picture of a grass tree in warm earth colors.

Prize of the day for the unusual went to "Jim" Webb for his study of the Old Daydream Smelter in oil-pastel on vylene. "Ern" Dunstan showed two head studies in colored inks and Margaret Fauser lent her prize-winning drawing "Cap'n". Children contributed a bright section.

Photographers who showed their artistry with the camera were John Ralton and "Bunny" Bindley. Ralton succeeded with his character and mood studies. Bindley's portraits, industrial studies and

Dead Tree were professional.

The show was successful in many ways. Exhibitors have shown development since the earlier show. After a week when Broken Hill turned on everything from stifling heat, howling dust storms, gales, soaking rain, thunderstorms, and fog, artists "took a chance" when rain was still a possibility. From eight a.m. on Sunday hanging and banging was rife in the park. Afterwards camp stools and thermos flasks lent a picnic atmosphere as artists took up their stands for the day to explain their wares.

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PARK ART SHOW

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Willing to brush off such comments as "I could do better myself" and "What is it anyway?" Chance of a lifetime for the artist! Abstract art is always a conversation piece. We strongly suspect that one exhibit was an old and trusty friend up-ended and given a new title. "Four Ways" was the bargain of the day. Four pictures for the price of one. A wit suggested a fifth way in which it could be hung.

Artists were gnashing their teeth (for an entirely different than Desiderius Orban, judge of the Wollongong Art Competition). They did not have a single study of a creek gum tree to sell Joe Gibbie.

The purchase of several paintings by art lovers cheered the exhibitors, successful ones being John Gregory, Sam Byrne, "Corn" Vandenberg, Eileen Lennox, and Fred Pratt.