Bienville's Ella Raayoni Remnant College Exhibit

Works Both Decorative and Amusing

By Alberta Collier

Ella Raayoni, whose collages are now on display at the Bienville Gallery, 539 Bienville, is an Israeli craftsman who creates sophisticated landscapes, "paintings" which make their own comments on the life of today.

Mrs. Raayoni is best in the portrait field when she weaves a convincing, and sometimes penetrating, likeness out of her essentially flimsy materials.

A "sketch" of Israeli premier Golda Meir is a convincing work which makes us feel the quality of a very intelligent and deeply compassionate woman. Yet, when examined closely, the work is conjured out of nothing more than swags of silk and artfully-arranged threads.

Her figure paintings have their own style, which draws them closer to fashion magazines than to fine art; and her landscapes, though pleasing, seem less significant.

A group of Shmuel Raayoni gouaches and oils, which are shown alongside his wife's more eye-catching works, draw closer to the fine art field.

The gouaches are essentially designs but the oils are emotional works done in strange, evocative color harmonies.

The dual show will be on view through the week and will be followed by a Lynne Gleason-T. M. Calas exhibition, which will be opened with a 6 to 8 p.m. reception on Sunday.

By Jeanie Blake

California artist Rex Brandt will speak on "Why Americans Like Watercolor" Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Louisiana State University of New Orleans University Center. The lecture, sponsored by the Louisiana Watercolor Society, will be illustrated with slides.

Brandt is vice-president of the American Watercolor Society and past president of the California Watercolor Society.

Tickets are available at the University Center and various art stores in the city. For further information, contact Mrs. Shirley Usinger, president of the LWS, at 737-4333.