Four Shows Open in Quarter Today

Receptions Set at Three Sites

By ALBERTA COLLIER

A memorial show for a well-known New Orleans muralist, an exhibition for a contemporary ceramist, a debut show of paintings and projections, and a diary play of paintings by a Sunday artist will all be unveiled at French Quarter galleries this Sunday.

The Reinike Gallery, 630 Toulouse, will exhibit mural renderings and easel paintings by the late Vera Reinike at a 6 to 9 p.m. reception; the Orleans Gallery, 327 Royal, will feature the latest Gary Edson pottery at a 6 to 8 p.m. preview; the Galerie Simone Stern, will introduce the works of Denise Chenel Vallon at a 6:30 to 9 p.m. gala; and the downtown Gallery, 532 Chartres, will present the “magic realism” of business executive William Derbin at normal Sunday hours.

Reinike Show

Vera Reinike, whose works will be shown at the family gallery, was born in Hamburg, Germany and spent her early childhood in that bustling harbor city.

Her favorite memories, however, concern the wind-swept North Sea beaches that she visited on family vacations and the tiny cottage and garden where her family found refuge from the sorrows and deprivations suffered in World War I.

Vera loved the fresh outdoors air, the flowers and other growing things and, while still a child, struggled to paint what she saw.

In 1923, her family left Germany for the United States; they settled in Chicago and, realizing the child's talent, saw that she had art training in addition to her regular education.

A round-the-world-trip, given to her on her graduation, opened her eyes to the great art and architecture of the past; further study at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts helped her to perfect her style.

It was during this time that Vera met a fellow art student from New Orleans; several years later, Vera and Charles Reinike were married and came to his native Louisiana to pursue their careers.

Vera was truly a helpmate as well as a loving wife. She kept house, bore and raised three children, taught in the former Reinike Academy of Art and did free-lance decorative art work.

It was the free-lance work that led her into the mural field. Here, her talent and her love of nature combined to bring the beauties of the Louisiana landscape to the walls of numerous homes in this state and Mississippi and Texas.

Though this memorial exhibition will not have any of these large wall paintings, it will have a selection from the more than 50 renderings and small sketches made for the finished designs.

It will also have one of her painted screens, which will be displayed in mural fashion, and a number of her easel paintings.

The exhibition will remain on view for two weeks.