Spanish Artist's Work Featured

By JEANIE BLAKE

Gaston Orellana's one man show, which features seven paintings, seven prints and a number of smaller studies at the Bienville Gallery clearly reflects the controversial personality of the artist. A native of Spain, Orellana refuses any obvious Spanish influence but claims the medium itself as his only influence. The reviewer cannot accept this answer since anatomical distortion is reminiscent of Spanish painting, El Greco being the prototype of this type of painting.

In 1961, in Madrid, Orellana with Juan Genoves, Jose Jardiel, and Fernando Mignoni founded the "Group Hondo" the result of which was the formation of the "New Figuration." A manifesto was published in European newspaper explaining its "new way." Orellana detests abstract art; he doesn't accept its authenticity as representing 1969. Convinced that his paintings reflect the "feeling of the time," especially in New York City, Orellana sees himself as an apostle needed to help people "believe again."

This is the area from which the controversy stems. If "to abstract" means to express something apart from the actual object or to use that object as a point of departure, then Orellana is an abstraction. The reviewer does not understand this denial of Orellana.

Leaving the exhibit one gets the feeling that our world has been enlarged by Orellana's world of oils on canvas. Judging the show on this basis, it was a successful visual experience.

The show will remain at the Bienville Gallery, 539 Bienville St., until Nov. 13.

Joint Show

Louisiana artists Beth Kastl and Ruth Buckley will have a joint showing at the Louisiana Crafts Council, 139 Broadway. A 4 to 6 p.m. reception Tuesday will be held honoring the dual event.

Mrs. Kastl studied under Grant Kenner and Karen Korn. Her pottery has been displayed in Washington D.C. and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in New York.

Ruth Buckley, a native of Alexandria, is a graduate of Louisiana College where she studied under Steward Purser. Mrs. Buckley taught art at Louisiana College for six years. Her silk screens have been exhibited in regional and state shows.

The show will remain at the gallery through November 3.

Songy's Photos

Larry Songy's photographic show, "A Moment of Light," is currently on display at Xavier University's Student Center.

No photographic trickery is employed by the artist. He encompasses both the natural and man-made world, obtaining a wide range of subject matter. Forms take on new meanings in Songy's close-ups.

Verging on social commentary, there are a number of photographs of hippies and Negro peers. The four color photos, which resemble National Geographic rejects, are definitely the weak spot of the show.

The show will remain at the student center until Oct. 28.

Reindorf Exhibit

An informal reception will be held this Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. to mark the opening of a Samuel Reindorf exhibit at the new Dillon Gallery, 329 Broadway.

The artist, a native of Poland, has made a reputation in Canada and this country. His show will have a two-week engagement at the gallery.

Pamphlet on Prints

The Tahir Gallery, 623 Chartres Street, under the guidance of Abe Tahir has recently printed a brief but comprehensive pamphlet on original prints. "Original Prints" is comprised of an article reprinted from "The National Observer" plus photographs of noted prints. Copies are available to the public at the gallery upon request.

Ledet Works

Glade Gallery artist Michael Ledet has works displayed in four separate shows throughout the South this month. Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Ark., will feature 40 works by Ledet in a solo show opening Monday. Ledet also has one painting in the 12th Annual Delta Art Exhibition, currently at the Arkansas Art Center; and another Ledet painting won a $50 award in the 47th Regional Juried exhibition now sponsored by the Shreveport Art Association.

And lastly Ledet has a work in the 56th National Competitive Exhibit: Frontal Images II in Jackson, Mississippi.