THE WORLD OF ART

Peck Creates Surrealist ‘Poetry’ in Erie Settings

Medical-Based Paintings Now on View

By ALBERTA COLLIER

In an age when science has set its sights on the stars, noted medical artist Paul Peck has used scientific knowledge to open up the beauty of a hidden universe, existing within our earthbound anatomies.

And an exhibition of Dr. Paul Peck paintings, now on view in the Newcomb Art School galleries, justifies its title of “Poetry of the Body.”

Peck, who has made a career in the medical art field, conceived this suite of 12 paintings as a fine art expression. His works, though accurate in medical detail, exist as surreal vistas where eerie, unfamiliar elements have their own ordered existence within the confines of the canvases.

Working with oil and tempera, Peck creates superbly limned shapes which form and realign themselves in an infinity of contained movements.

“Bone,” with its receding layers of intricate lacework, has an almost Gothic feeling; “Reticulo-Endothelial System” is like something existing 20,000 leagues under the sea; and “Hematopoiesis,” which concerns the formation of red blood corpuscles, is a gay, almost dancing abstract pattern.

“Calculi,” a composite work where alien objects are arranged within the cavern-like interior of a membranous sac, is a surreal, almost frightening conception.

A group of working medical depictions, also by Dr. Peck, demonstrate that the artist comes to the forefront even while executing purely scientific diagrams.

The exhibition will continue on display until April 3.

A GEORGE WOLFE painting and drawing exhibition, now hanging in the 331 Gallery, 331 Chartres, is built around a concrete jungle theme where the artist focuses on the powerful thrusts and encircling coils of the many over and underpasses in the city.

In Wolfe’s excellent drawings, one feels the anger at the encroaching traffic arms which edge inexorably through simple neighborhoods and make dark caverns out of areas where sunshine once played.

This emotion is, however, diluted in the paintings which, though successful in their mosaic play of hues, lack the dramatic force of the more direct linework.

Wolfe’s color harmonies, which are delightful in a pastel way, are perhaps the main culprit in his paintings.

The subject, if viewed objectively, is a dark, drab and discouraging one, enlivened only by the few rays of light which trickle down between the pierced roadways. The theme itself is a somber one with Gothic echoes — it needs to be handled with the muddy tones which are part of the pall of the blighted areas.

A group of unrelated Wolfe drawings, depicting clumps of native Louisiana vegetation, are completely delightful works which display the artist’s real skill as a draftsman and his sensitive feeling for natural beauty.

A Louise Nevelson print portfolio and a small Martha Gavensky print show round out this 331 Gallery offering.

The Nevelson graphics, which make use of various photographic reproduction methods, are modish but pale reflections of the wooden constructions on which her reputation is based; the Gavensky works are eclectic without being particularly good.

The exhibition will run through April 2.

JESSELYN ZURIK, who exhibits through the Glade Gallery, will be the guest lecturer for a St. Tammany Parish Art Association luncheon meeting to be held this Friday in Covington.

Her talk will be illustrated by slides.

The First Unitarian Church of New Orleans, located at 1800 Jefferson Ave., is planning a Spring Art Fair, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The works to be presented will encompass the fields of painting, drawing and crafts.

Among the participating artists are Shirley Timmreck, Joan Greenberg, Adelma Rasch and Barbara Threefoot. There will also be paintings and prints by the late Walter Anderson and paintings by the popular primitive Louisiana artist, Clementine Hunter.

By JEANIE BLAKE

A new and interesting addition to the Earth Works exhibit at the Delgado Museum, which opened on Feb. 24, is a suite of lithographs by Robert Rauschenburg.

The series, entitled “Stoned Moon,” uses man’s ingenuity and creativity as the subject matter.

What better moment in history exemplifies man’s boundless talents than when the umbilical cord that once forced man to be only earth bound was broken? Images, such as