Two One-Man Shows Set This Week

Top Artists Will Exhibit Works

By ALBERTA COLLIER

The New Orleans art pace will go into high gear this week with two of the major downtown galleries planning one-man shows by star artists.

The first to kick off will be the Downtown Gallery, 621 St. Ann, which will present an exhibition of new paintings by Mildred Wohl at 3:30 p.m. reception this Sunday.

Second only in timing is a Glade Gallery two-part Ida Kohlmeyer "retrospective," which will open at 6 to 9 p.m. reception on Saturday.

The word "retrospective" is used loosely here as the show is actually planned as a re-examination of Ida Kohlmeyer's seven years of active working as an art career.

This artist, who took up serious painting relatively late in life, has had the most meteoric career seen in this city. Though she received her first degree and the certificate then given for art at Newcomb College in 1956, Ida retired from life for a number of years and, only when her children were half-grown did she return to art and further education.

She received her master of fine arts degree from Newcomb College in 1956 and, almost immediately, began to attract attention for her work.

Her first one-man exhibition was held at the Delgado Museum of Art in 1957; since then, she was given 13 other solo shows either in this city, in New York city or in other sections of the country.

Ida has won nine top awards and 12 purchase or other prizes since 1957 and is represented in the permanent collections of the Delgado, the Centro Asturias in Barranquilla, Colombia, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Mead Corporation, the Montgomery Museum of Art, the Oklahoma Art Center, the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery in New York city and in other important institutions.

In fact, Ida has become a legend in her own time. Her coming show, "Ida Kohlmeyer: Works," will be displayed at the Glade Gallery, located at 821 Toulouse. The older pieces, which are representative of all phases of Ida's development, will be hung across the street at 830 Toulouse. This gallery, which is part of the Art League Building, has been lent for the occasion by another fine New Orleans artist, Charles Relnike. An illustrated Ida Kohlmeyer monograph, published earlier this year by the Glade Gallery, will be available for visitors.

The Mildred Wohl exhibition at the Downtown Gallery promises to be one of the most dramatic of the year. The invitations state "But such is the irresistible nature of black, that all it asks, and all it wants, is the liberty of appearing." "Millie" says that she has always been fascinated with black as a color and that she has tried to get some of the excitement she feels into her new works, painting a well of black so deep and strong that it is like the darkness on the far side of the moon.

But, she adds, there is always a light shining through, a hope trying to find its way out of the menace that engulfs it.

To heighten the feeling, the gallery will be painted and draped with black and spotlights will be used to bring out the drama of the canvasses.

"Millie," though she has won international reputation for her non-objective works, feels that she, is, in many ways, self-taught.

This will be her fifth one-man show at the Downtown Gallery, where she has also had solo shows at the Meredith Long Galleries in Houston, the Bodley Gallery in New York City, the New Vision Gallery in London, England and at the Gallery Numero Fournier, in France. She has exhibited in juried or invitational group shows at the Delgado Museum, in the Louisiana State Commission and in other leading spots in the country. She has participated in group shows in such spots as Leeds College in London, England and Gallery With in Berlin, Germany.

"Millie" received the top award in the 1962 Louisiana Art Commission Annual Exhibition and a purchase prize the next year at the Jackson (Miss.) National Annual Exhibition. She won an honorable mention in a Society of the Four Arts National Exhibition in Paris and has paintings included in collections of the Delgado Museum, the Evangeline (Ind.) Museum of Art, the Emily and Joe Lowe Museum in Miami, the Norfolk (Va.) Museum, and the Sheldon Swope Museum in Terre Haute, Ind., the Spring Hill College in Mobile, the New York City Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

The Wohl show will be on view until Nov. 6; the Kohlmeyer display will be up through Nov. 20.

IDA KOHLMEYER WITH TWO OF THE PAINTINGS that will be included in the large Kohlmeyer exhibition opening Saturday at the Glade Gallery.

MILDRED WOHL AND "OUT OF THE MORNING BLACK" This painting is one of a number on the same theme that will be in a one-man show opening this Sunday at the Downtown Gallery.