



HUIE EXHIBITION OPENS: Part of the large crowd of Jamaicans and visitors who attended the opening of an exhibition of recent works by artist Albert Huie, at Harmony Hall, Ocho Rios recently. Mrs. Marigold Harding (right), wife of Senator Ossie Harding (left) opened the show. Albert Huie is pictured second from right.

Albert Huie show reflects versatility

A mix of new works by veteran Jamaican artist Albert Huie, have been praised for masterful brush work, rich tones, and strong lines ... in continuation of a tradition established over five decades.

Huie, a pioneer from the early days of indigenous fine art in the 1930s, has some three dozen works on show at the Harmony Hall Gallery in Ocho Rios, from February 5-March 2.

Nudes and faces predominate, but there are also several landscapes, two small flower studies, and a tiny, elegant figure study titled "Water Carriers", whose sparse lines contrast with the usual fleshier Huie works.

In the 1930s, she noted, there were the early portraits represented in the National Gallery, coming out of an era which he shared with Edna Manley and Carl Abrahams. Works of this time included 'Girl in Lace Dress', 'Girl with Beads', and 'Portrait of Peggy'.

In the 1940s, she pointed to the increased dominance of figurative compositions, such as 'Noon Time', and 'Days Without Ending'. Then in the 1950s, there is a tendency to see Huie as a landscape artist, with major works such as 'Late Afternoon in Lucky Valley', and 'Morgans Harbour 1958' ... a trend continued in the 1960s with 'Long Bay East', and 'Coconut Piece'.

"Since the pioneer days with the early Huies, Jamaican art has passed through various trends — the realist and symbolist, abstract, expressionist and surrealist, and so on, but the works of Huie — one of the pioneers, are still with us and as important

as ever" Mrs. Harding said.

Huie himself is less able to distinguish periods and changes in his work as it has developed over the years.

"It is difficult to say if my work has changed over the years," he said. "It is hard to look at my own work objectively. If one is working consistently, as I do, it is hard to see change because one is always reacting to things.

"I am still equally divided between landscapes and figures," he added, "even if there are more figures in this show. I have been doing a lot of figure compositions recently — like 'Water Carriers' — though unfortunately few were ready for this show". Of the works in the Harmony Hall show, all of them painted in the period 1984-1985, Huie said that a study titled 'Begonia', is the most recent.

Asked on comment on the large number of miniatures in the exhibition, Huie said that he had been painting miniatures as well as large canvasses for some ten years now, as a practical method of using up small canvasses as well as large ones.

Miniatures in the current exhibition include faces such as 'Joan' and 'Norman'; a few landscapes such as Midland I, and Midland II, and several nudes including the gently executed Seated Model, the heavier Reading Model, and the reflective The Stool.

Huie, who was born in Falmouth, Trelawny, has been recognized both locally and overseas for his work, and has exhibited his work in several countries. His current show runs until March 2.

JAMAICA