

# A glimpse into the past

By Our Art Critic

The exhibition of paintings, now on at the Artists' Centre, at Rampart Row, is an exhibition with a difference. The paintings on display are not being exhibited by the painters but by one who has collected them over the years. These represent a part of the collection of Rudi von Leyden who has been a friend and patron of artists in Bombay for well over 30 years. In a way, this collection presents the grassroots of contemporary Indian painting.

Executed between 1932 and 1967 these will necessarily bring nostalgic memories to those who have been associated with the art movement in Bombay. One sees here Ara, Chawda, Gade, Husain, Khanna, Raza, Raiba and Souza as youthful enterprising painters striving to forge their way. We see a charming composition by Ara, "The Dance", which was painted by him in 1942. This, perhaps, is one of the first paintings to be exhibited by him. We also see the early beginnings of his still-life phase. The "Studio and Flowers" (1950) and the "Black Pot" (1952) are indeed charming examples.

## STRIKING PIECE

Souza's "Goa Church" (1947), painted in lustrous colours with a heavy black outline, is indeed a striking piece. The collection includes three of Raza's paintings, two belonging to his pre-Paris period and one painted soon after he went to France.

The latter one, "Mountain Village" (1959), has all the charm of Raza's colourful palette, executed in oils. Then there is one of Husain's, "Day and Night" (1951), and another one of Gade, entitled "Omkareshwar" (1948), a landscape in lush colours. Our scheme for which the artist was well known.



Particular mention has to be made of the two canvases by Walter Langhammer who played a leading part in the art life of Bombay for many years. His still life (1932) is really a striking piece. Another interesting piece is his portrait of Rudi Leyden, entitled "The Critic" (1943).

Going round this exhibition was like meeting old friends. One cannot help being reminded of the days when the present gallery was truly the seat of art activities in Bombay as the salon and office of the Bombay Art Society.

## INSEPARABLE PART

Rudi has been an inseparable part of the art life of Bombay during his long stay in the city. Himself a qualified painter, Rudi came to be known as an art critic. He was a close friend of young artists to whom he freely offered his support. It is sad to feel that this good friend of artists is soon to leave India.

The exhibition will remain open till Sunday, between 1 and 7.30 p.m.

# IN THE TODAY

Bharat Education Soc anniversary day, paign, Khetwadi, 8 Bihari Barbhaiya's ex paintings: Taj Art Devkinandan Sharma bird paintings: Apollo Street, 11 Rotary Club of Gaurang B. Yodh and society," T 1.15 p.m. Anuvrat Anushasta Shri Tulsi to add conference, Go Charni Road, 3 p All-India Exporters ral meeting, IMC Bombay Gandhi Sm procession, Azad Gallery Chemould: art scene—1968." Indo-American So J. H. Taleyarkh rican partnersh Street, 6.15 p.m. Indian Drug Mar tion: Dr. K. A guage problem bai Hall, 6.30

## D. K. J. ex

By Our

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In a way, orthodox in c ment and style had the mistakable i ence of Pat mal in every tail. He,

ever, carried listeners with rited expos of melodies well - modu appealing His account ragas K Mohana and were remark alapanas, sw I would sp rity of his context of Jayarama sitions in and Shan be superfl ghat Mar giving m sounded could give himself o