

Skitterende reeks grafiese werke van Irma Stern

Va der Land

BY Galery 101 is daar 'n besondere tentoonstelling te sien. Irma Stern, een van ons bekendste kunstenaresses, hou tans haar honderdste eenpersoons-tentoonstelling aldaar. In hierdie interessante en opsiebare versameling vertoon sy 101 grafiese werke.

Vir die student asook enige ander kunsliefhebber is hierdie 'n merkwaardige reeks. Irma Stern se jongste werke kan vergelyk word met dié wat sy oor 'n periode van byna 30 jaar verrig het. Skitterend, en moontlik ook van die beste wat vertoon

is nou dun — soms delikaat en senuagtig — en gebroke. Dit is asof die kunstenaar aangedryf word deur 'n innerlike passie wat nie gou genoeg gestil kan word nie. Dikwels pas die hele figuur nie mooi in die raam nie. Die ledemate wat sy oorbodig vind, word eenvoudig weggelaat of soms ingekrimp. In die briljante stuk „In die Harem” (nr. 28) is die linkerarm effens afgeskeep, dog so intens kleurvol is die werk dat dit nie hinderlik is nie.

Ander opwindende werke op die tentoonstelling is nrs. 88, 29, 18, 73, en die tekenings nrs. 67, 68 en 66. — **Dirk Meerkotter.**



IRMA STERN

word, is die Bantoe-tekeninge in dik houtskool, wat tussen die jare 1932 en 1945 gedoen is. Vir my is hierdie werke van haar kragtigste en mees ernstige fase. In 'n werk soos „Mangbato Meisie” (nr. 16) is daar 'n sierlike bekoring in die pragtig getekende kop van 'n Bantoe-meisie. Die eenvoud en intense lynwerk wat sonder die minste huiwering aangewend is, maak van hierdie werk 'n meesterstuk.

Deur die jare het Irma Stern nie besadiger of kalmer begin werk nie, maar intendeel vuriger, meer uitgesproke en ekspressivisties.

Wanneer sy nou 'n figuur teken, word net die belangrike neergepen. Met blitsvinnige sketsagtige lyne word uiting aan haar emosies gegee. Die dik lyne

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The Monday Page



Dr. and Mrs. Henry Gluckman at Irma Stern's retrospective exhibition of graphic art which was opened in Johannesburg last week by Miss Rosa van Geldern.

ART SHOW

Stimulating graphics by Irma Stern

By the Art Critic

ABIDING by the dictionary definition of "graphic" as "an adjective to do with drawing, painting, engraving, etching . . .," rather than in the present accepted sense of prints alone, Irma Stern's graphic art (Gallery 101) makes one of the most stimulating and varied exhibitions imaginable.

A good artist's drawings and notes are his handwriting and most revealingly so in the case of Irma Stern.

Though her supreme mode of communication is through oils and colour (and colour is not lacking here) one recaptures, in this large retrospective exhibition, the warm excitement of those earlier drawings from the Congo and Zanzibar, when her delight in the strangeness and beauty of new surroundings overflowed into countless spontaneous line and wash drawings.

INTIMATE

This work is so alive, so intimate and expressive and the exhibition so large that one marvels how few of these drawings rely on a signa-

ture to consolidate their authorship—and if there are one or two that seem over-casual for inclusion there are dozens to be prized by collectors.

Ranking high among the larger works is a group of three grand figure studies in the first room near the window.

But there are innumerable smaller drawings quite as compelling in their own way: the small ink drawing, done as long ago as 1936, of a group of roisterers with a mandoline, the little sketch of two women water-carriers (92) the beautiful study in colour of land workers (Spain) and some classic monotypes.

Do not miss this exhibition.

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"Century" exhibition for artist

One of South Africa's oldest living woman artists, Miss Irma Stern, has reached her "century" of 100 exhibitions, but no champagne bottles will pop to celebrate it. Miss Stern is ill in bed in Cape Town.

Her 100th exhibition is at present on show at Gallery 101 in Johannesburg, and Miss Stern had planned to come up north to celebrate her artistic centenary.

A spokesman for the gallery said today: "This may be Miss Stern's last exhibition in Johannesburg. She is quite ill, and has only exhibited three times during the last five years."

Her pictures have travelled all over the world. In 1960 she won the coveted Guggenheimer award for South Africa.

Irma Stern to paint in Europe

The artist Irma Stern, who is having her 100th exhibition in Johannesburg, is not ill as was reported last week.

Miss Stern is preparing for a painting trip to Europe in three months time and works in her studio every day.

Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Stern, of Johannesburg, said today: "She is working with utmost vigour, drives her car around Cape Town and has many plans for the future."

Mrs. Stern said her sister-in-law would spend most of her time in Spain for the rest of the year but would also visit Paris.