

01 MAY 1974

Date

NATAL MERCURY

Action painting at the NSA

THE N.S.A. GALLERY in 320 West Street, is at present exhibiting works by Patrick Wilson, a Johannesburg artist now living in Pinetown.

He may be remembered here as having had sculpture on last year's Art: South Africa; Today exhibition but this is his first exhibition of painting.

After extensive research into various aspects of philosophy and psychology, he has formulated his own personal attitude, and has adopted action painting as his means of expression. His media are egg tempera on paper and enamel on canvas.

He aims towards a "gestalt" apprehension of his work, i.e., the work seen as a totality, and not as something built up out of component parts.

The emotional impact is intended to be direct and immediate.

With this form of

painting, the response is primarily subjective. Having made his intention clear, it remains up to us as viewers of the artist's work, to decide whether he has succeeded in adequately conveying that intention.

This critic found many of the works to be strong, cohesive and technically satisfying, and this view will probably find concurrence with those viewers who find action painting intriguing.

There are also a number of the artist's sculptures on view. These are made out of polyester resin, and consist of smooth organic shapes which once again express metaphysical concepts, such as the cross within a cube, or the Ball in a Landscape. Reclining Form is a strong piece with visceral connotations.

The exhibition will be on view until June 8.

5 JUN 1974

Date

NATAL DAILY NEWS

A penchant for polyester

THIS IS Patrick Wilson's first one-man exhibition in Durban and contains seven sculptures, for which he is best known, and a number of paintings.

He has exhibited in a number of group exhibitions in Johannesburg and a piece of his sculpture was on last year's Art South Africa exhibition in Durban.

Formerly of the Transvaal, now settled in Pinetown, Wilson has a penchant for polyester resin which, he says, enables him to handle a sculpture from beginning to the final polishing.

He has produced lovely, lithe, semi-abstract shapes with anatomical overtones. And though any colour of the medium can be produced, he has confined himself to white, black and red.

The white "Reclining figure" has great purity of line and evokes a tactile response, as it twists and turns. On the other hand,

Exhibition: Works of Patrick Wilson (NSA Gallery, Durban).

an unpolished reclining form has the effect of repelling rather than attracting the viewer.

The "Locking Forms" in white encourage the viewer to participate by imposing his own combination of forms, like a child's toy.

The paintings are of the action painting type with an obvious immediate impact. The artist has used the technique to explore his ideas on colour and texture.

This is done with great effect in the "Dreams of a Madman" series where deep cool greens and violent purples and reds jostle with each other.

On the whole, though, I think the artist expresses himself better in the sculpture. One feels the paintings are a little overblown.

J.G.